

## Preface

In 2001, the German speaking Acarological Colloquium took place in Graz for the first time, and this year this event was held at the University of Graz again. The Acarological Colloquia are being held in the years between the large international congresses ICA and EURAAC, and their primary purpose was to connect only German speaking acarologists. However, over the years the meeting became more and more popular and nowadays, scientists from all over Central Europe and beyond participate. This year's 9th Acarological Colloquium was attended by 36 acarologists who came from Germany (10), Poland (4), Russia (1), Hungary (1) and Austria (20). It is worth mentioning that there were many young scientists among them who presented their work. All in all, there were 17 oral presentations and 7 posters dealing with different aspects of Acarology: the topics ranged from methodology, taxonomy, phylogeny, morphology and developmental biology to ecology and applied zoology. Moreover, an ambitious interdisciplinary combining science and arts was presented: lifelike and scientifically correct computer animations of tiny soil organisms in their habitats allowed a glimpse into a world we normally are not able to see. The meeting ended with an all-day excursion to the South-East of Styria, to the so-called 'Steirisches Vulkanland'. The weather was splendid, and all participants enjoyed the nature as well as the cultural and culinary impressions of the region. There was also enough time to discuss various matters, scientific as well as non-scientific.

We want to thank Michaela Bodner, Andrea Lienhard, Simone Torda and Petra Föttinger for voluntary helping with organizational issues and for providing the participants with refreshments during the breaks. We are also grateful to the company Lactan which donated merchandising products. We are especially indebted to the University of Graz who supported us financially and thus made the meeting possible.

A special thank to Axel Christian making possible the publication of the colloquiums' contributions in this issue of the journal SOIL ORGANISMS.

The next Acarological Colloquium will be a jubilee since it will be the 10th Colloquium. It will be held in Görlitz, Germany, in 2015 and will be organized by Dr. Axel Christian.

Graz in November, 2013

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## Participants of the 9<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on Acarology (Graz 2013)



1 – R. Schuster, 2 – J. Schwab, 3 – St. Lazarus, 4 – N. Brandstetter, 5 – J. Jagersbacher-Baumann, 6 – T. Pfingstl, 7 – A. Shatrov, 8 – M. Walzl, 9 – E. Wurst, 10 – E. McCullough, 11 – S. Schmelzle, 12 – M. Fröschl, 13 – S. Ehrnsberger, 14 – G. Alberti, 15 – V. Gergocs, 16 – S. Schäffer, 17 – G. Krisper, 18 – R. Lehmitz, 19 – A. Lienhard, 20 – G. Raspotnig, 21 – K. Adlbauer, 22 – K.-H. Schmid, 23 – P. Bergmann, 24 – M. Laumann, 25 – R. Ehrnsberger, 26 – I. Alberti, 27 – Ch. Hörweg, 28 – Ch. Komposch, 29 – I. Schatz, 30 – W. Paill, 31 – M. Höpperger, 32 – H. Schatz, 33 – A. Piasta, 34 – E. Pastwik, 35 – A. Wierzbicka, 36 – M. Heethoff, 37 – R. Fragner, 38 – A. Christian, 39 – E. Ebermann