

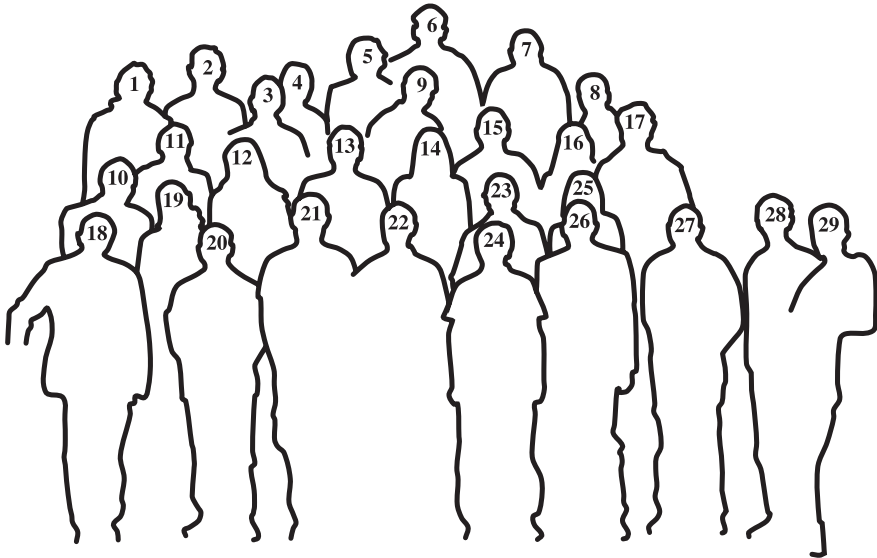
Proceedings of the
8th Colloquium on Acarology
(8. Milbenkundliches Kolloquium)
Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen
in
Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
22–24 September 2011

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 21 – S. Schmelzle, 22 – P. Bergmann, 23 – B. Jäschke, 24 – A. Shatrov, 25 – R. Lehmitz,
 26 – A. Christian, 27 – G. Alberti, 28 – A. Wohltmann, 29 – M. Laumann

8th Colloquium on Acarology
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at the Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany

This issue of SOIL ORGANISMS is dedicated to the 8th Colloquium on Acarology, which took place in September 2011 in Tuebingen, the geographic center of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The location of the meeting was the institute of geological science. All coffee-breaks and the poster presentation took place in the Therapsid Hall, which is part of the paleontological collection of the University of Tuebingen. This collection was established in the early 18th century and offers outstanding finds from Baden-Wuerttemberg, such as a group of skeletons of the Swabian dinosaur Plateosaurus. The Therapsid Hall shows parts of the most important and one of the largest collections of these extinct animals from the late Paleozoic, which exhibits some evolutionary adaptations considered today as typically mammalian: the shape of the extremity bones, specialized teeth and even the presence of a pelt.

We were honored to organize this meeting in Tuebingen despite its lack of a significant acarological history at the university: only Prof. Dr Ludwig Beck and Dr Steffen Woas had short appointments at the Zoological Institute in the 1980s.

We welcomed 35 participants from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Russia and the Netherlands. Like in all years before, there was a broad range of scientific presentations, focusing on general aspects of mite biology and biogeography, evolutionary biology and phylogeny, morphology and ultrastructure, ecology and behavior.

Oliver Betz, head of the department of Evolutionary Biology of Invertebrates, opened the meeting with a salutatory and gave an overview on the scientific history of the University in Tuebingen. Heinrich Schatz from Innsbruck presented the plenary lecture, a wonderful retrospect on his acarological achievements in the northern Neotropis (Galapagos). Another 16 talks and 7 posters were presented in the two days of the meeting, with all presentations of highest quality and scientific content. The high quality and broadness is also reflected in the contributions to this issue of SOIL ORGANISMS in hand. We thank Axel Christian for making the proceedings possible.

Like always, the colloquium on acarology was not only organized for giving and listening to scientific lectures, but also for general discussions: bringing acarologists together in an informal atmosphere has always been another intention of the colloquium. For that reason, the evening activities and excursions were an important part of the meeting. This year, we visited the Ratskeller for welcome dinner. At the second evening we hiked to the famous Schwärzlochler Hof, one of the oldest dwelling places of Tuebingen, after a wonderful guided city tour with Reinhard Gerecke. The city tour started upon the Platanen Allee, an island in the city center of Tuebingen, housing the name-giving avenue of planes from the 19th century, and ended in the Stiftskirche, where the founder of the University of Tuebingen, Graf Eberhard im Bart, is buried. The excursion on Saturday started with a visit of the Hirschkopf near Mössingen, where a giant landslide reshaped the environment 25 years ago. Afterwards we enjoyed a guided tour at the Cistercian abbey in Bebenhausen.

Finally, we would like to thank those persons and institutions who contributed to the success of our colloquium: Many people have spent quite amounts of their time and helped in different ways, we would like to thank especially Philippe Havlik and Regina Ellenbracht from the

department of Terrestrial Palaeoclimatology and Julius Braun and Christian Schmitt from the department of Evolutionary Biology of Invertebrates. Pro Acarologia Basiliensis (PAB) and Bioform funded our meeting.

For the 9th Colloquium on Acarology in 2013, Günther Krisper, Günther Raspotnig and Reinhard Schuster invited us to the Karl-Franzens-University in Graz.

Tuebingen in April, 2011

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