

TWO IJA FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2009 FROM TAYLOR AND FRANCIS GROUP - As noted above and in the previous issue of IJA, two fellowships of \$500 each, named "Prasad Family Fellowships," will be available from Taylor & Francis Group in 2009 to support the growth of acarology, with special emphasis on taxonomy. These fellowships will be given to deserving candidates for teaching, research, training, or the collection of mites or ticks in any part of the world. Interested persons should write to Mr. Adam Wheeler (adam.wheeler@informa.com) at Taylor & Francis, Dr. James Amrine (jamrine@wvu.edu), or Dr. Vikram Prasad (v.prasad@ix.netcom.com), providing a detailed description of their need for funds. Any research paper resulting from an ADF fellowship will be considered for publication in IJA without page charges.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ACAROLGY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION - This year's Acarology Development Foundation fund-raising dinner meeting was held on Saturday, 27 September 2008, at IJA headquarters in West Bloomfield, Michigan. The chief guest was Dr. Richard G. Robbins, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC 20307-5001, a current Associate Editor of IJA and the first President of ADF. The meeting was attended by about 40 participants and their spouses, including Dr. James W. Amrine, Jr. (Morgantown, WV), Rukhsana Begum, M.D. (Howell, MI), Mr. Bill Heugel (Plymouth, MI), Dr. Robert W. Husband (Adrian, MI), Mrs. Sherri Kantor (Ann Arbor, MI), Mr. Robert Laporte (Boalsburg, PA), Dr. Bill Phillis (Northville, MI), Bala Prasad, M.D. (Bloomfield Hills, MI), Vikram Prasad, M.D. (West Bloomfield, MI), Mr. Ravi Prasad (West Bloomfield, MI), Santosh Rastogi, M.D. (Troy, MI), Dr. Purushottam Sharma (Bloomfield Hills, MI), Mr. Anil Shrivastava (Rochester, MI), Mr. Rupesh Srivastava (West Bloomfield, MI), Mr. Subhash Upadhyaya and Richard Wandzel, M.D. (West Bloomfield, MI). Two additional participants were Michigan's young but talented movie directors and producers, Mr. Sam Logan Khaledi (West Bloomfield, MI, known for his film "Love is a Thieves' Game") and Mr. Sherrill Dean Teaster (Fowlerville, MI, known for his film "Dean Teaster's Ghost Town"), who showed segments of their work. Dr. Robbins addressed the history and objectives of ADF, praising its role in assisting young investigators by providing fellowships for training in acarology, with special emphasis on taxonomy. Dr. James Amrine discussed how Indira Publishing House has maintained the quality of the International Journal of Acarology and how Board members are working together during IJA's transition to the Taylor & Francis Group. All ADF donors were honored, and Dr. Amrine, Dr. Husband and Dr. Robbins received special awards for their contributions to acarology. Regular readers of this column know that ADF is a nonpolitical, nonreligious, nonprofit charitable and educational foundation that was established on 24 October 2004 at IJA headquarters in West Bloomfield, Michigan, USA. Donations to this organization are tax exempt under IRS section 501(c)(3).

PRAISE FOR IJA COVERS - Over the years, IJA has received numerous letters from readers, lauding the contents of the journal and its attractive covers. A recent example is the following: "I received IJA 34(3). I liked the cover with the nice picture of an epicriid mite. I am using it as a challenge to the mite students here - asking them if they can place this mite in the correct suborder (Mesostigmata) based on the character(s) present in it. Legs are rather similar to Podocinidae; tarsal appendages very small but nicely clear. Otherwise, it can be difficult. Nice photos too of the Montpellier meeting. On page 331, middle row, extreme right photo - the statue, located on campus, right beside the "Champignon," the building where the meeting was held - deserves an explanation: although it looks like a female lesbian couple, it symbolizes the new American grape rootstock (the younger of the ladies), resistant to Phylloxera, which came to rescue the older European one, which was being destroyed by this insect. This statue is often referred to, erroneously, as being of lesbians. Good papers; the double pictures on page 231 are fantastic." - Carlos H. W. Flechtmann (Brazil).

FORESTALLING THE DEMISE OF ACAROLGY - Despite the importance of acarological research, and the need for acarologists in every country, our profession is often in jeopardy at the national level. While entomology, nematology, and other branches of zoology are thriving, acarology continues to lose ground, particularly with respect to funding. Thus, at the USDA's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland, the position held by the late Dr. Edward W. Baker, who had worked all his life to establish an international center for acarology research, would have been lost, were it not for a barrage of appeals from acarologists throughout the United States and abroad. Of course, the potential for crisis is by no means confined to this country. What would happen if the tiny cadre of acarologists in Australia, Canada, South Africa and elsewhere were to retire during these economically straitened times, when it is easy for officials to deem their research "non-essential"? And how should the international acarology community respond to such threats? According to Dr. Vikram Prasad, to save acarology we must work together to establish active national acarology associations that sponsor yearly meetings, as well as regional acarology associations that meet every two years. It is also essential to participate in international acarology congresses every four years, and to set up frequent acarology symposia and meetings in each country in association with colleagues worldwide. This approach would draw both national and international attention, thereby stemming the decline of our science. Hope is not lost when people work together. As Lord Byron proclaimed: "All who would win joy, must share it; happiness was born a twin."