

NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN ACAROLGY - Do you want to help the field of acarology grow in your country? If so, note that beginning in 2009 the Taylor & Francis Group will be providing two new Acarology Development Foundation fellowships of \$500 each on a yearly basis. Also, Vikram and Indira Prasad will continue to travel and present lectures promoting the development of acarology worldwide. Please feel free to contact Vikram (v.prasad@ix.netcom.com) to arrange future meetings on acarology in your country.

DEPOSITION OF PHILIPPINE ACARINE TYPES - Dr. Leonila A. Corpuz-Raros has informed IJA that her mite collections and those of Mr. Leo C. Rimando, including most types of species described by them and other students, have been deposited in the University of the Philippines at Los Baños Museum of Natural History in Laguna, the Philippines. The museum also houses thousands of slide-mounted and alcohol-preserved specimens of plant- and soil-inhabiting mites that remain unstudied. Requests for loans and inquiries concerning these collections should be addressed to Dr. Ireneo L. Lit Jr., Museum Director (illit_jr@yahoo.com) or Dr. Corpuz-Raros (lacraros@yahoo.com).

SALUTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE RETIREMENT OF VIKRAM PRASAD AS MANAGING EDITOR OF IJA - Vikram Prasad, M.D., Ph.D., founder, Editor and Managing Editor of IJA for many years, has retired. In closing this chapter of his life, he reminds readers that "IJA was the dream of a poor young acarologist who loved his science and dedicated his life to it. My achievements should serve as encouragement to all young scientists, acarologists in particular, not to give up their dreams but to keep working with the help of their family members, friends and supporters. At the same time, they must strive to improve their training and research, with the goal of reinventing their profession, because the old ways are not going to withstand the onslaught of modern technology." Immediately after the announcement of Vikram's retirement, the IJA offices were flooded with good wishes, of which the following are typical:

AUSTRIA - "I am very much astonished to hear from you about the transfer of IJA to Taylor & Francis Company of U.K. I wish you the best." - Reinhart Schuster (Reinhart.Achuster@uni-graz.at)

BRAZIL - "I received some free reprints and a copy of IJA. I would like to congratulate you on the speed and efficiency of the IJA. It was a pleasure to publish in your journal. Best wishes for your retirement from IJA as Managing Editor." - Noeli Juarez Ferla (njferla@univates.br)

"June 2008 issue of IJA just arrived. I liked very much the way you placed the two pictures on the front cover together. High standards! Best wishes in retirement from IJA as Managing Editor." - Carlos H. W. Flechtmann (chw-flechtmann@carpa.ciaagri.usp.br)

"In one sense, this is a bit nostalgic, in your changing relations with the IJA. As I have heard from many other acarologists from different countries, I sincerely admire the contribution you have been providing to acarology for almost 40 years. I refer especially to the role you have been playing as the Managing Editor of IJA. Your work has certainly had a considerable impact on most of us acarologists. At this point, I want to say 'THANK YOU' so much for helping us in a full lifetime! In another sense, I want to thank you very much for your care in making it possible for IJA to continue to improve in different ways (as it has throughout its 34 years of existence), even after you discontinue your role as Managing Editor. The publication of IJA from 2009 indicates profound improvements in the future of IJA in cooperation with Taylor & Francis Company of London, U.K." - Gilberto J. de Moraes (gjmoraes@esalq.usp.br)

CANADA - "Congratulations on the most excellent agreement deal with the Taylor & Francis Company. You have negotiated impressive terms of transfer for IJA. Also, congratulations to you and to Indira on your impending retirement from the heavy editorial duties that IJA has required for the past many years. I am glad to know that you won't be retiring completely, though." - Heather Proctor (hproctor@ualberta.ca)

CZECH REPUBLIC - "I cannot believe how prompt you are. I deeply admire your activity in acarology when I know your age and that you are busy in your private practice as a physician. Your decision to transfer IJA to Taylor & Francis Company of U.K. is commendable. I know another journal from this publishing company, 'Avian Pathology,' in which I have published a paper on avipoxvirus in blackcaps (a common bird species in Europe) this year, and I must say that my experience with reviewers and editors of that journal was very good every time. So, I wish all the best to the new IJA and I assure you that I will send my future paper to IJA when I have one." - Ivan Literak (literakI@yfu.cz)

GERMANY - "Thanks to you very much for all your work with IJA, and congratulations for the successful publication of your appreciated journal, and also to your wife, and best wishes for the continuation of your intense activities for science and education." - Reinhard Gerecke (reinhard.gerecke@uni-tuebingen.de)

INDIA - "Glad to note that you are taking the load of Acarology Development Foundation activity with sincerity and honesty and retiring as Managing Editor of IJA (from December 1, 2008). This will certainly bear fruits with so many inputs from your side. Wish you good luck and every success in your noble endeavor." - Sushma and Satya P. Bhardwaj (bhardwajsp@rediffmail.com)