

ACAROLGY NEWS, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

PREPARATIONS FOR XIIth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ACAROLGY ON SCHEDULE - The second circular for the XIIth International Congress of Acarology, to be held at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, between 21 and 26 August 2006, is available at www.acarology.org/~ica2006. A third circular will have been released by the time of this notice. Many acarologists have already taken advantage of the discounted early registration fee (280 vs. 350 euros; there will also be a Congress dinner for 75 euros). Register by 1 April 2006 to receive this special rate. One euro is currently worth about US \$1.20. Abstracts of papers must be submitted by 1 May 2006. Local hotel reservations are the responsibility of individual attendees, but the above site includes a page for reserving rooms near the university. No transportation will be available from the Congress, as the meeting site is 5-15 minutes from suggested hotels. A number of tours will be announced in May and June as well as during the Congress. Questions or requests for additional information should be directed to the Organizing Committee President, Dr. Maurice W. Sabelis (sabelis@science.uva.nl), as soon as possible.

ACAROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS - The annual meeting of the Acarological Society of America was held in conjunction with that of the Entomological Society of America at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on 6 November 2005 and was very well attended. Dr. Angela James (USDA-APHIS, Fort Collins, Colorado) and Dr. David G. James (Washington State University, Prosser) co-chaired a symposium entitled "Current Advances in Acarology."

NEXT MEETING OF ACAROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - Dr. Ronald Ochoa, Research Entomologist (Acarologist), Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA (rochoa@sel.barc.usda.gov), has informed IJA that the next annual meeting of the Acarological Society of America will be held in conjunction with that of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 10 December 2006. Dr. Ochoa and Dr. Hans Klompen, Museum of Biological Diversity, The Ohio State University (klompen.1@osu.edu), will conduct the afternoon symposium entitled "Current Advances in Acarology 2006." Those interested in presenting papers should contact Dr. Ochoa or Dr. Klompen as soon as possible; titles of presentations are due by 24 February 2006.

FIRST ACAROLGY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP LIKELY IN 2007 - IJA readers are aware that the Acarology Development Foundation was established on 24 October 2004 at IJA headquarters in West Bloomfield, Michigan, and officially unveiled during IJA's 30th anniversary celebration in Columbus, Ohio, on 26 June 2005. We are pleased to report that the first ADF scholarship, of about \$500, will likely be awarded in early 2007 for education/training in the taxonomy of mites or ticks. Anyone interested in the ADF scholarship program is encouraged to contact Dr. Richard G. Robbins (richard.robbins@osd.mil), ADF President, Dr. James W. Amrine, Jr. (jamrine@wvu.edu), ADF Vice President, or Dr. Vikram Prasad (v.prasad@ix.netcom.com), ADF Secretary, about eligibility requirements, which will also be announced in a future issue of IJA.

ACAROLGY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION CHARTER SENT TO IRS - In December 2005, the Acarology Development Foundation applied for federal tax exempt status under Internal Revenue Section 501(c)(3). The ADF charter, together with almost 100 pages of supporting documentation, is currently being evaluated, and the IRS expects to render its judgment by April 2006.

IJA IMPACT FACTOR ESTABLISHED - The impact factors (IF) of scientific journals often dictate the venues for publication at institutes of higher learning. Recently, IJA earned an IF of 0.350, which is considered a very satisfactory first score. For comparison, the IFs of some other journals of interest to acarologists are: *Acarologia* - not available; *American Bee Journal* - 0.177; *Biologia* - 0.207; *Experimental and Applied Acarology* - 0.555; *International Journal of Limnology* - 0.614; *Systematic and Applied Acarology* - not available. As might be expected, IFs are independently determined, so journals have no control over the ranking process.

RETIREMENTS - Dr. Bruce Halliday (bruce.halliday@csiro.au), CSIRO Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia, has informed IJA that after 25 years of service as acarologist to the Australian National Insect Collection, he celebrated his 55th birthday in March 2005 by taking voluntary early retirement. This happy decision has made it possible for Dr. Halliday to pursue full-time research on a range of mite groups from Australia and overseas, while also engaging other interests, among them serving as a member of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and as manager of the ANIC Bookshop. His address remains unchanged, and he maintains a personal home page at www.ento.csiro.au/staffhome/bhalliday.html. At present, there is no plan to appoint his successor at the ANIC.

Dr. Nixon Wilson, Emeritus Professor, Department of Biology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, 50614-0421, USA, has informed IJA that he retired in 1997 and now conducts research on a part-time basis. A charter member of IJA, Dr. Wilson recently wrote to Dr. Prasad: "Vikram, do you realize that it has been over 40 years since our initial meeting at Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1965? We have gone in different directions but still hold acarology dear to our hearts. You are to be commended for your efforts to promote the science of acarology, both through initiation and publication of IJA and organizing meetings of colleagues from time to time. I appreciate your efforts, as do others." Younger readers may be unaware that Dr. Wilson was once Head of the Entomology/Acarology Department at the Bishop Museum, where he generously assisted young people like Vikram Prasad, who were struggling to establish themselves in acarology. These former students fondly recall the camaraderie of the Bishop Museum staff, and the vast collections of mites and literature that made working there such a thrilling experience. Sadly, that age now seems like a dream, gone beyond recall.

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