



Preface to the Proceedings of the XVI International Congress of Acarology*

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I am delighted to introduce this volume, which collects the abstracts and full papers submitted to the XVI International Congress of Acarology in Auckland, New Zealand (1 to 5 December 2022). In previous congresses, organizers often printed an internally distributed abstract book before the congress for delegates to use during the congress and then published a formal congress proceedings for full papers after the congress. There is often significant duplication of work: e.g., abstracts are reviewed before the congress for inclusion in the abstract book and full papers with abstracts are reviewed again for publication in the proceedings after the conference. The packaging and mailing of the conference proceedings have additional costs in labour and funds, requiring setting aside funds that are not easy to forecast because the final size of the book is unknown. In addition, there has been a trend of decreasing volume of proceedings due to the lack of interest by delegates to submit full papers to the conference proceedings (Fig. 1). The reform introduced in this congress is to address these problems: the combination of the abstract book and usual proceedings in a single book for publication before the congress to reduce duplication of peer-review and editorial work as well as eliminate post and package cost.

The theme “Acarological Frontiers” for this congress is well reflected in the five keynote presentations and over 50 invited presentations in 8 symposia, with strong focuses on such areas as mite pests and invasive species,

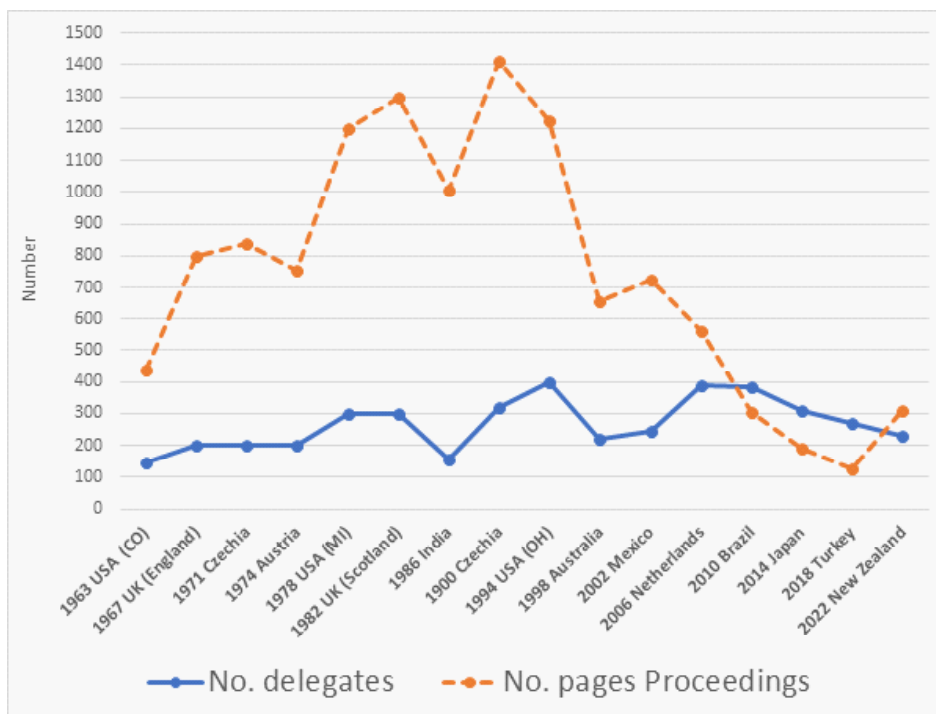


FIGURE 1. The numbers of delegates and printed pages of proceedings for 16 congresses of acarology, showing the large variation in the number of pages in the proceedings (esp. the rapid decline after 1990 until 2018).

mite natural enemies and integrated pest control, mite interactions with hosts and symbionts at different levels (from morphology and ecology to proteins and genes), mite genomics and evolution (Fig. 2). There are also ten sections for contributed presentations from over a hundred delegates who will discuss topics covering the full spectrum of current research on mites and ticks. This congress also introduced Poster Flash Presentations, which are similar to e-posters; this category was introduced due to a large number of virtual presentations in this congress. Hybrid meetings are mainly a by-product of

online meetings and remote teaching during COVID-19 pandemic but may offer some benefits for those who are unable to travel due to various reasons. This congress provides a test for this new model for the International Congress of Acarology. The abstracts for Poster Flash Presentations and normal poster presentations are grouped at the end of the volume, after the 10 regular sections. The Table of Contents reflects this sequence and corresponds well with the 5-day programme. An index is also included to facilitate the finding of abstracts or papers in this volume.

I wish to thank my co-editors Drs Qing-Hai Fan, Allen Heath and Maria Minor for sharing the editing load and all reviewers for their help and support. We are grateful to Miss Siyu Hou (Magnolia Press) for designing the logo for this congress and her support in the production of this book. Evo Wu (Magnolia Press) kindly compiled the keywords of abstracts and papers in this volume and prepared Figure 2 in this preface; his assistance is greatly appreciated. We thank all individuals and organizations who supported this congress in funds or in kind, especially The University of Auckland, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, Ministry for Primary Industries, Systematic & Applied Acarology Society, and Magnolia Press. Lilian Zhang (The University of Auckland) kindly edited the draft of this preface and helped with the editing of the figure.

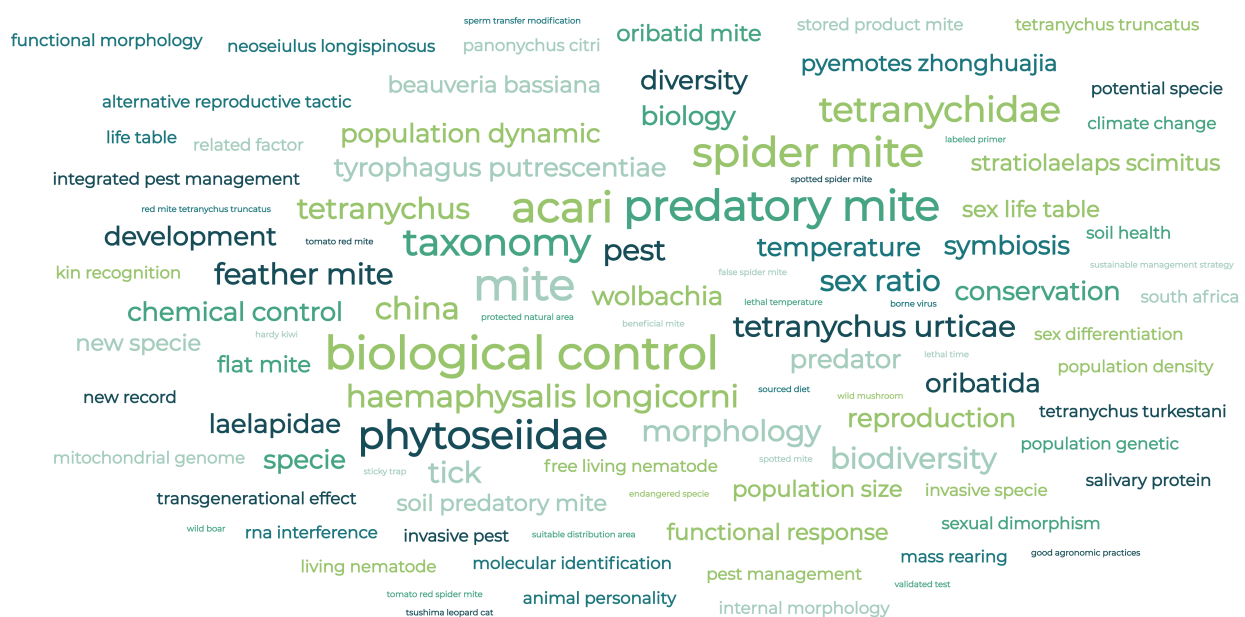


FIGURE 2. Keyword clouds of abstracts and full papers collected in this volume (*Proceedings of the XVI International Congress of Acarology*).