

Hellenic Zoological Society

The Hellenic Zoological Society is a non-profit organization established in 1980 in Athens. Its membership stands at the moment at 200 members from Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras, Crete, and other parts of Greece as well as from abroad. Any person that has documented scientific activity in zoological subjects can become a member. Anyone who is interested in the aims of the Society may become an Associate member. The address of the Society is: c/o Zoological Museum, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Athens, Panepistimioupolis, GR-157 84 Athens, Greece.

The aims of the Society are the study of the geographic distribution (Zoogeography), the Ecology and the Systematics of the animals that live in Greece, the conservation of the fauna of Greece and the study of relevant problems.

In order to achieve these aims, the activities of the Society are the collection of the scientific literature on the fauna of Greece, the promotion and co-ordination of all

matters related to the fauna of Greece, the provision of information to the authorities, the exchange of information, the organization of symposia, congresses, talks and discussions, the publication of books, studies, journals and assistance in every kind of activity that leads to the achievement of the aims of the Society.

Areas of present activities are organization of the international congress on the Zoogeography and Ecology of Greece and the adjacent regions every three years, publication of the series *Fauna Graeciae* and the journal *Hellenic Zoological Archives*, publication of the *Red Data Book of the Threatened Vertebrates of Greece*, supervision of the Greek Fauna Documentation Center that collects and processes data on the fauna of Greece, implementation of research projects and collaboration with Universities and other scientific and environmental organizations for the promotion of subjects dealing with research, information, conservation and education on the animals of Greece.

Foreword

The 8th International Congress on the Zoogeography and Ecology of Greece and Adjacent Regions (Contributions to the Zoogeography and Ecology of the Eastern Mediterranean Region) was held in Kavala, Greece from Monday to Friday, 17-21 May 1999. Over 140 attended altogether, of whom 165 were participants. The main topic of the Congress was "Adaptations of the Mediterranean fauna". The presentations comprised 23 lectures by invited speakers, 69 oral presentations and 74 posters divided into two sessions, one on terrestrial and the other on aquatic fauna. The first session concerning the adaptations in the terrestrial environment, was held at the Amphitheatre of the Prefecture of Kavala, while the other, concerning the adaptations in the marine and freshwater environment, was held at the Public Library. The Organizing Committee decided this time to expand the scope of the subject matter from the Greek boundaries to a general review of the faunal adaptations as recorded all over the Mediterranean Sea. This attempt was enhanced by the participation of scientists from 25 countries and 52 research centers (Institutes and Universities). Three round table sessions were also organized during the last two days of the Congress, concerning (a) the Tropicalization in the Mediterranean Sea, (b) the mussel *Mytilus* and its ecology, biogeography, molecular biology, systematics, coastal environment and agriculture and (c) the Biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea. All these sessions were held at various Conference Halls of hospitable first-class hotels of Kavala. Manuscripts of the submitted presentations were thoroughly reviewed by international referees and accepted for publication in the Volume of the Proceedings.

The Congress was generally regarded as being particularly successful. Due to the hard work and foresight of my colleagues in the organizing Committee, along with the tireless efforts of my colleagues of the Secretariat (J. Christidis, P. Voulgaridou and P. Damianidis), whose contributions were invaluable, we managed to create an optimal atmosphere for the exchange of knowledge and information and the development of a common ground, which was able to host the great diversity of interests among the participants. To all who contributed I extend my thanks.

The city of Kavala was chosen to host the Congress as the home grounds of the Fisheries Research Institute, part

of the National Agricultural Research Foundation (NAGREF), one of the main organizers. The city itself offered many opportunities for sightseeing and walkabout around the pier or the city's Byzantine Castle. The fine climatic conditions and the highly entertaining social programme set the tone for a relaxed atmosphere, in a manner of friendliness and good will among the participants, which subsequently pervaded the Congress. Participants were cordially welcome by the Organizing Committee and representatives of the Municipality and the Prefecture of Kavala on Monday morning. On Tuesday, good music and the best of Greek food accompanied a very pleasant evening at the Prefecture's welcome dinner. Wednesday was a day off from lectures and presentations and participants had the opportunity to join in interesting excursions and other exciting outdoor activities, including a trip to Mt. Athos, a visit to the archaeological site of Filippi and a tour to the estuaries of Nestos River. The highlight was on Thursday evening when participants enjoyed an original Greek feast with dancing and music, specially arranged by the Organizing Committee, which left everyone with a feeling of joy and a promise to meet again at the next Congress.

The Organizing Committee is grateful to all major and minor sponsors for their much-appreciated support. Especially, we would like to thank the Prefecture of Kavala, the SEKAP SA Tobacco Co., the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace, the Municipality of Kavala, the General Secretariat of Youth, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the Ministry of Culture. We would also like to express our gratitude to all the invited speakers who honoured the Congress with their presence and the presentation of their work: Augier, H. (France), Bianchi, C.N. (Italy), Christou, E. (Greece), Danovaro, R. (Italy), Eleutheriou, A. (Greece), Zouros, E. (Greece), Ghabbour, S.I. (Egypt), Legakis, A. (Greece), Malicky, H. (Austria), Mylonas, M. (Greece), Nicolaidou, A. (Greece), Perez-Mellado, V. (Spain), Poinot-Balaguer, N. (France), Poulicek, M. (Belgium) and Ragusa di Chiara, S. (Italy). In the end, our warmest thanks to all congress attendees for their interest in participating in this Congress; I hope to see you all again at the next International Congress on the Contributions to the Zoogeography and Ecology of the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

C.C. CHINTIROGLOU
Chairman, Organizing Committee

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