



Xin Centenary and Progress in Chinese Acarology: an introduction*

ZHI-QIANG ZHANG¹ & XIAO-YUE HONG²,

¹Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland, New Zealand;
E-mail: zhangz@landcareresearch.co.nz

²Department of Entomology, Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing, Jiangsu 210095, China;
Corresponding author: E-mail: xyhong@njau.edu.cn

* In: Zhang, Z.-Q., Hong, X.-Y. & Fan, Q.-H. (eds) Xin Jie-Liu Centenary: Progress in Chinese Acarology. *Zoosymposia*, 4, 1–345.

This commemorative volume is dedicated to Prof Xin Jie-Liu (1909–1994)—a pioneer and founder of acarology and several other branches of zoology in China. Prof Xin was born in November 1909. To celebrate the centenary of his birth in November 2009, Dr Zhang Zhi-Qiang and Dr Hong Xiao-Yue organized a special commemorative symposium “Progress in Acarology in China” during the 9th *National Congress of Acarology* in Nanjing, China (Zhang, 2009). This volume, however, was conceived prior to the symposium and several leading acarologists in China were invited to prepare reviews of research progress in their area of study for this volume. Some of them also presented their reviews during the symposium. After the symposium, several additional chapters were invited and prepared for this volume.

This volume collects a paper in tribute to Prof Xin (Zhang & Dong, 2010) plus 18 reviews of progress in various aspects of acarology in China; 17 of these are mainly on the taxonomy of these taxa and each includes a historical review of faunistic studies on the group and also a checklist of taxa with bibliography (Table 1). These reviews cover major groups of mites of agricultural and environmental importance in China. We focus on mites of agricultural and environmental importance because (1) Prof Xin was mainly interested in these mites and (2) we were unable to include all mite groups due to the lack of time, the lack of currently active specialists for many other groups (e.g. medically important groups) and also the limitation of the expertise of the editors.

This book includes a total of 3089 species in 818 genera and 193 families (Table 1). These represent significant increases over 238 species in 76 genera and 23 families reported in *Agricultural Mites of China*¹ (Jiangxi University, 1984) and 788 species in 258 genera and 90 families listed in the agricultural acarology section of *Researches of Acarology in China*² (Chen & Ma, 1992), even when oribatid mites and water mites in this book were excluded from total counts.

At the end of the book we included two appendices providing English-Chinese translation of author names and journal/book titles cited in this volume. An index to supraspecific mite taxa was also included.

We hope that these reviews of progress in this volume will both stimulate and facilitate further studies of mites in China, and at the same time also facilitate access to Chinese literature on mites for researchers outside China. The authors of each chapter had tried to provide updates on various taxa

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1. This book does not include water mites and oribatid mites but includes acarid mites (Astigmata).
 2. This book includes oribatid mites, but not water mites