

Summary of the history of the International Congresses of Acarology*

CARLOS H.W. FLECHTMANN

Depto. Entomologia e Acarologia, Escola Superior de Agricultura “Luiz de Queiroz”, Universidade de São Paulo; 13418-900 Piracicaba-SP, Brazil; CNPq-Brazil Researcher; E-mail: chwflech@esalq.usp.br

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“The conception of the First International Congress of Acarology originated one evening during an informal discussion in the library of the Zoological Institute at the University of Vienna in August 1960. This simple beginning during the course of the convened XIth International Congress of Entomology initiated the general plans. Subsequent discussions among those acarologists present resulted in the establishment of an organizing committee which was charged to consider the feasibility of an international meeting and to make positive arrangements.

Historically, acarologists have felt a need to develop closer affiliations with each other as specialists. And acarology, while integrated and associated with entomology, and somewhat overshadowed by the more matured prestige of this sister science, has grown in importance and stature as a discipline. This growth stimulated the desire of acarologists to develop closer scientific relationships and the informal meeting in Vienna gave impetus and meaning to the expressions of this need for a more autonomous functioning of the acarologists, concurrent with the desire for continued association and cooperation with entomology and entomologists. Moreover, it was intent of the acarologists assembled in Vienna to profit from the experiences of their fellow scientists, to direct the science of acarology, to set standards and steer the course of this specialty in an orderly way.

The general committee elected in Vienna subsequently selected sectional chairmen, sectional committees and panels together with major subjects to be discussed in the proposed program. Initial proposals were submitted to the general committee by the Chairman, revised and finally submitted to National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health for funding.

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, accepted responsibility for staging the meeting. The final funding of the Conference was completed early in the year of 1963 and preparations were made for the meeting at Fort Collins from 2 to 7 September 1963.

From this cosmopolitan group emerged a first, singularly significant step in the upward reach of the new and dynamic science of Acarology.” [Proceedings, 1st International Congress of Acarology, Acarologia, 1964, 6 (h.s.): 31–32].

Important notes about the congresses

1ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ACAROLOGY

Venue: Fort Collins, Colorado, USA.

Period: 2–7 September 1963.

Participants: 146 delegates from 23 countries.

Officers of the Congress: President: G.W. Wharton; Secretary: T.A. Woolley.

Sections: Systematics and taxonomy; Soil ecology; Medical and veterinary acarology; Physiology, behavior, genetics; Agricultural and stored product Acarology.

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