

Preface

Following the tradition of biennial meetings, that was established with the 1st European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference in 1997 in York, UK, the 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference aimed to provide a platform for scientists, management staff and legislators involved in vertebrate pest issues.

The 2011 meeting was organized by the Vertebrate Research Group of Julius Kühn Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants and the Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture of Humboldt University. The organizers thankfully acknowledge the financial support provided by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the Federal Ministry of Health, the Federal Environment Agency, the German Phytomedical Society, and the German Research Foundation.

Former meetings have been held in York, United Kingdom (1997), Braunschweig, Germany (1999), SeKibbutz Ma'aleh Hachamisha, Israel (2001), Parma, Italy (2003), Budapest, Hungary (2005), Reading, United Kingdom (2007) and Lyon, France (2009). In Berlin 2011, circa 150 delegates met for a week of conferencing (about 130 talks and posters, 1 workshop), social interaction (conference tour) and discussions about the latest research, developments, opportunities and achievements in vertebrate pest management.

The organizers paid special attention to include presentations from countries beyond Europe and paid particular attention to countries with developing and emerging economies. As a result, participants from 25 European countries and 13 countries from Africa, Asia, Australia, north-America and south-America contributed talks and posters.

The presentations were held in 9 symposia on fertility control, invasives, birds, new tools incl. a workshop, mammal population dynamics, rodenticide resistance, vertebrates in developing/ emerging countries, wild boar, and zoonoses. The 130 conference contributions are summarized in this book of abstracts. In addition, a special issue of the international scientific journal Pest Management Science will be dedicated to the 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference. Publication of the special issue will be in early 2012 and contain full papers of about 20 invited, peer-reviewed articles.

All summaries in this book of abstracts are available online via www.jki.bund.de/en and can also be accessed through the conference website www.evpmc.org.

The abstracts presented here demonstrate the diversity of regions, economic systems, and vertebrate species that matter in the context of vertebrate pest management. It seems that vertebrate damage to European agriculture, forestry, horticulture and infrastructure exceeds 1 billion € per year. This is likely to increase because the value of many crops is growing as a result of rising global demand for food, timber and bio-fuel. The monetary loss due to vertebrate borne disease in Europe is barely known.

There is a range of management methods available to minimize vertebrate damage in plant production, health protection and conservation. The major challenges for the future are 1) the development of management approaches that are environmentally benign, effective and economical and 2) to maintain and expand the diversity of methods in the management tool box to appropriately control problems caused by overabundant vertebrates.

The next European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference will be held in Finland organized by Otso Huitu and Heikki Henttonen of the Finnish Forest Research Institute. We are looking forward to the meeting in 2013 in northern Europe.

We sincerely thank all colleagues that were involved in organizing the 8th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference. We are indebted to organizers of the symposia, the plenary speakers and all other presenters. Thank you for making the conference such a productive and enjoyable meeting.

Münster, September 2011

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