

Preface

The International Commission on Plant Pollinator Relations (ICPPR) was founded in 1950 as the International Commission for Bee Botany (ICBB). Its objectives are to promote & coordinate research on relationships between plants and pollinators of all types. That mandate includes studies of insect pollinated plants, pollinator foraging behaviour, effects of pollinator visits on plants, management and protection of insect pollinators, bee collected materials (e.g. nectar and pollen), and of products derived from plants and modified by bees. Further, the ICPPR organises meetings, colloquia or symposia related to the above topics and publishes and distributes the proceedings. The ICPPR collaborates closely with national and international institutions and is one of the 82 scientific commissions of the International Union for Biological Sciences.

The managed pollinator protection and health working group (the Bee Protection Group) is the ICPPR's most active working group. It has provided leadership for the European Plant Protection Organization's concerns for pollinators and pollination, and for the ICPPR as a world-wide body. In the past two decades or so there have been major changes in emphasis as more kinds of managed pollinators have become used around the world, new kinds of pesticides have been developed and deployed in agriculture, and international concern for the plight of pollinators and pollination in all ecosystems has risen. This 12th Symposium of the Bee Protection Group continues the traditions of keeping abreast of the needs for pollinator protection. The organizers and speakers are to be congratulated for the forward thinking and synthetic agenda that is reflected in these proceedings.

Around the world, concern for regulatory issues for pollinator health and protection have been, and are being reviewed. An important new approach to pollinator protection is the formalization of **Risk Assessment** (Sessions 1 and 3) and **Risk Management** (Session 5). The six sessions into which these proceedings are divided can all be unified by factors that have become part of the overarching theme of measuring, assessing and managing risks. The considerations presented range from ultimate issues in regulatory decision making (Session 1) through to measures of risk that can derive from laboratory, semi-field, and field testing of pesticides (Sessions 2 and 4), mostly for honeybees but with applicability to other managed pollinators. Understandably, many presentations deal with neonicotinoid insecticides and the contemporary problems they have created in pollination (especially Session 3).

The major challenges with respect to environmental and ecosystem effects add greatly to the complexity of what needs to be known for science-based policy in pesticide development, testing, regulation and application. The authors and editors of this volume have provided a firm framework in which to move forward with the specific issues facing apiculture, the more general problems for managed and wild pollinators, and the *into* matters of agricultural productivity and agroecosystem health.

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