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EDITORIAL

Preface: Limnology of temperate South America

This issue of the journal *Limnologia* provides the first time limnological studies from temperate South America in a compiled work. The idea was born during the III Argentinean Congress on Limnology, held during November 2005 in Chascomus (Argentina) and organized by Horacio Zagarese and collaborators. The aim was to present a cross-cut of ongoing investigations from different limnological areas in temperate South America. We are very grateful to the Editor-in-Chief of *Limnologia* who supported this idea from its beginning and gave us the opportunity to edit this volume.

The focus of this issue is on limnological studies in preandean and Andean lakes of the North-Patagonian lake district (38–42°S). There are three papers from the west Andean side and seven papers from the east Andean side. Regarding the deep North-Patagonian lakes several papers deal with the absorption spectra of these lakes (Pérez, Queimaliños, Balseiro, & Modenutti, 2007), with their chemical composition and the nitrogen-regulation of the phytoplankton (Diaz, Pedrozo, Reynolds, & Temporetti, 2007), and with the distribution of large mixotrophic ciliates (*Stentor*) in Chilean lakes (Woelfl, 2007). One study relates the phytoplankton composition to the nitrogen limitation in a naturally-acidic lake in the Argentinean Andes (Beamud, Diaz, & Pedrozo, 2007). Other papers deal with paleolimnological aspects in an Chilean Andean lake (Urrutia et al., 2007) and the growth rates of the mussel *Diplodon chilensis* and their implication for the biodiversity in temperate lakes of Chile (Valdovinos & Pedreros, 2007). One paper reports on piscivory of the native *Percichthys trucha* and exotic salmonids upon a common native forage fish in Andean lakes (Macchi, Pascual, & Vigliano, 2007). Further, there are two studies on shallow water bodies in Argentina, the first one on the zooplankton impact on phytoplankton and microbial assemblages in a wetland (Sinistro, Sánchez, Marinone, & Izaguirre, 2007) and the second one on the role of light limitation and other physical variables in a shallow lake in the Argentinean pampa (Torremorell, Bustigorry, Escaray, & Zagarese, 2007). Only one study provides information on lotic systems, especially on the commu-

nity structure of chironomids in a patagonian andean stream (García & Añón Suárez, 2007).

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