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# Limnologia

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## Preface

The special issue of *Limnologia* “*Limnoecology in Latin America*” is dedicated to Dr. Ramesh D. Gulati’s (Centre of Limnology, Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Nieuwersluis) 50 years of uninterrupted contribution to plankton ecology (see Parma (2003) for a brief biography and a list of publications). Dr. Gulati, who is also the *Editor in Chief* of *Aquatic Ecology* (Springer, The Netherlands) has wide experience in the areas of plankton dynamics and ecology, zooplankton feeding, assimilation and phosphorus excretion, energy flow in lake ecosystems, lake eutrophication and ecosystem stress, and lake restoration/recovery techniques using food-web biomanipulation.

Ever since the appearance of *Limnoecology* (Lampert and Sommer 1997), numerous special issues on themes related to limnoecology have been published (e.g., Hülsmann et al. 2008). However, the representation of studies conducted in Latin America as special volumes is, at best, sporadic (Alcocer and Sarma 2002; Arcifa and Gulati 2007). At present Latin American universities and research institutions contribute significantly to the global limno-ecological research output. This is evident in databases on limnology and in scientific gatherings on aquatic ecology. It was, therefore, considered prudent to bring out a synthetic volume on limno-ecological studies in Latin America.

Invitations were sent to different institutions and individual researchers of the Latin American region during beginning of 2008 and the initial response was overwhelming. However, care was taken not to include purely physical or chemical limnological data without relating them to the organisms or ecotoxicological works that emphasize only stress-related aspects on organisms. By the middle of 2008, we received in all 15 works. Of these 9 manuscripts received favourable evaluations from the reviewers and are included in this special issue.

The present volume contains two reviews (Ramos-Jiliberto et al. 2009; Bozelli et al. 2009), two works on field zooplankton (Casanova et al. 2009; Enríquez-García et al. 2009), one on experimental ecology of rotifers (Alva-Martínez et al. 2009), two on phytoplankton (Figueredo and Giani 2009; N.T. Chellappa et al. 2009), one on plankton and benthos (Márquez-García et al. 2009) and one on limnoecology of fishes (S. Chellappa et al. 2009). Thus, these works together cover the basic structure of freshwater food chain (phytoplankton–zooplankton–fishes) reflecting the theme of the special issue.

A number of colleagues helped us in reviewing the submitted manuscripts (Victor Martínez Almeida, Javier Carmona, N.T. Chellappa, Lura Davlos-Lind, H.J. Dumont, José Luis Gama Flores, R.D. Gulati, Marina Manca, S. Nandini, Colin S. Reynolds, S.S.S. Sarma, Marlene Sofia Arcifa, Elizabeth J. Walsh, and H. Zimmermann-Timm). We thank them all for their time and effort.

Finally, we take this opportunity to thank Prof. Dr. Rainer Koschel, *Editor in Chief*, *Limnologia* for his encouragement and to the Elsevier (The Netherlands) for generously publishing the special issue.

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