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1-1-2005

# Preface

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Takahashi, Kenichi; Asakawa, Mitsuhiko; Ruedas, Luis A.; and Gardner, Scott Lyell, "Preface" (2005). *Faculty Publications from the Harold W. Manter Laboratory of Parasitology.* Paper 54.
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*Mammal Study* 30: S65 (2005)
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# Preface

The papers included in this section were derived from the topical presentations including but not limited to parasite zoonoses, mammal parasite ecology, and mammal parasite biodiversity given at the IX International Mammalogical Congress (IMC9) held in 31 July–5 August 2005 in Sapporo, Japan. Of the around 950 papers presented by delegates from 52 countries representing global mammalogy, 49 (5.15%) presentations focused on zoonoses, viruses, and other forms of parasitism. This is a marked increase in the number of presentations on parasites and zoonoses compared to the most recent last two international theriological congresses (Gardner et al., this volume). The themes from the different symposia sessions included 1) Emerging zoonoses from mammals, 2) Mammal parasite biodiversity, 3) The epidemiology and management of diseases in wild mammal populations, 4) Macro-ecology of mammal parasite relationships, 5) Carnivores and diseases, 6) Coevolution and cophylogeny of mammals and their micro- and macroparasites.

Recently the field of "Conservation Medicine" was proposed and defined as an interpretation of the relationship between natural ecosystems and living body mechanisms, including studies of interactions between pathogens and the causes of disease, and among species including humans, their livestock, and natural ecosystems. We hope that this publication can be a trigger for the development and discovery of additional approaches to studies of Ecological Parasitology in the broadest sense.

The editors of this session collected and summarized authors and titles of papers on the epidemiology and ecology of wildlife diseases and zoonoses presented in the last three congress including IMC9. Papers presented in these congresses range from basic presentations on ecology and causative agents of mammalian disease to the description of practical methods and modes of study for the control of a wide range of wildlife diseases, both zoonotic and naturally endemic. We hope that this publication will provide useful information for scientists involved in research of wildlife disease and zoonoses and we expect that the next step will be to create a global network of scientists who are working in this field.

We are grateful to Professor Noriyuki Ohtaishi of Rakuno Gakuen University, the President of IMC9, for his encouragement of this publication. This publication was partly supported by Grant-in-Aid (No. 14560271) and High Technological Research Center (Rakuno Gakuen Univ.) from the Ministry of the Education, Science and Culture of Japan, and the Commission on Countermeasures to Infectious Diseases of the Japanese Society of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine.

Finally, the editors would like to thank all contributors who took part in this session for preparing manuscripts in a very limited time.

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