

Preface

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Ostracodology – Between Tradition and Renewal

The eight papers of this topical issue of the *International Review of Hydrobiology* offer an idea about present-day research interests of ostracodologists. They were presented on the 7th European Ostracodologist's Meeting in Graz (Austria), 2011. Four contributions deal with investigations on ostracod assemblages from marine and/or limnic environments. This is a traditional topic discussed during Ostracod meetings, but the interest of the papers here presented lays in the quantitative treatment of data and the way they are related to environmental parameters.

Two papers deal with a wide spread species, *Cyprideis torosa*, which lives in both marine and limnic systems. Generally this species occurs in coastal marine habitats but is able to colonise also inland waters. Depending on the salinity concentration the valves of this species build external nodes which can be informative for (palaeo)-ecological studies. An experimental and a palaeolimnological study demonstrate the interest of this approach.

One contribution discusses evolutionary and biogeographical aspects of the endemic fauna from Lake Ohrid (in this case the ostracod Leptocytheridae). This is a topic which is actually widely debated by various research groups, both ecologists and palaeontologists.

Finally, there is one paper dealing with ecotoxicological aspects of a limnic species which is able to survive in highly polluted waters. The paper was not presented at the Graz-meeting, but because of its potential interest to the specialists working on the monitoring of benthic pollution we decided to include it for publication here.

We would like to stress that the title we chose for the present volume should remember the successful editorial strategy of this journal since its beginning more than 100 years ago, namely to offer a bright selection of interesting topics related to aquatic ecology.

Finally, we want to thank the reviewers for the careful reading of the submitted manuscripts. Their suggestions were followed by the authors, leading to the improvement of the scientific content of the contributions. We acknowledge too the support of the new editorial team of the *International Review of Hydrobiology*.