

Preface

Since the foundation of the two conference series Rodens et Spatium (R&S) in 1987 and International Conference of Rodent Biology and Management (ICRBM) in 1998, there have been mostly biannual meetings mostly in Europe (R&S) and meetings about every four years in Asia, Australia and Africa (ICRBM). After many highly successful meetings in the past we now have the great pleasure to welcome you to the first joint meeting of the conference series that combines the 16th R&S and the 6th ICRBM.

The joint meeting provides the fantastic opportunity to bring together about 300 participants from five continents. In about 300 contributions experts and students of rodent biology and management as well as participants from industry, NGOs and from national and international authorities present and discuss recent findings and issues, develop networks and identify future research priorities.

By combining the two conference series we aim to join forces of the R&S that is traditionally more geared towards basic science and the ICRBM that also has rodent management in its focus. We trust that this is a suitable approach to have management benefit from science and vice versa. Properly managing overabundant rodent populations is highly relevant not only for crop protection that affect food security in developing countries but also for health protection regarding rodent-borne diseases and for the conservation of native flora and fauna that can be negatively affected by invasive rodent species. In addition, rare rodent species also require management to bring populations up to the desired level. The summaries presented in this book of abstracts demonstrate the diversity of regions, rodent species and research questions involved. They also show that interest and quality research is spread across the globe because participants from well over 50 countries attend the conference.

The organisers of the meeting thankfully acknowledge the financial support provided by their home institutions, as well as by the German Phytomedical Society, the International Society of Zoological Sciences, the German Research Platform for Zoonoses funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and the German Research Foundation.

All summaries in this book of abstracts are available online via www.julius-kuehn.de/en and can also be accessed through the conference website www.rodents2018.org.

We sincerely thank all colleagues that were involved in organising the joint meeting. We are indebted to organisers of the symposia, the plenary speakers and all other presenters. Thank you for making the conference a productive and enjoyable meeting.

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