

## FOREWORD

Prólogo

FABIAN M. JAKSIC<sup>1</sup>  
CARL D. MARTI<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Departamento de Biología Ambiental, Universidad Católica de Chile, Casilla 114-D, Santiago, Chile.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Zoology, Weber State College, Ogden, Utah 84408-2505, USA.

The papers in this issue of the *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural* represent the proceedings of an international workshop held in Santiago, Chile in August 1986: the "U.S. -Latin America Workshop on Interactions between Trophic Levels: toward a Synthesis of North and South American Research Results". Stimulus for this workshop was generated during our previous collaboration funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation's Science in Developing Countries Program. Under that grant, between 1983-1985 we visited each other's research areas, presented seminars, and interacted with each other's students and colleagues while investigating ecomorphological correlates of hunting mode in birds of prey.

Encouraged by the benefits of our first grant, we began to look for ways to stimulate more interactions between ecologists in North and South America. We put together a workshop proposal to address ecomorphological correlates of foraging mode in predatory vertebrates, and contacted Christine French of the SDC Program in November 1984. She thought that the subject area was too narrow and urged us to present a new, broader scope proposal. We then outlined a workshop on interactions between trophic levels (e.g., predator-prey, granivore-plant) which could draw together a broad cross-section of ecologists from North and South America. Thematically, we were of course constrained by the small number of South American ecologists specialized in trophic-level interactions. We had to find North American counterparts for the following individuals (and expertises): the Argentines Enrique Bucher (terrestrial grazing) and Ricardo Ojeda (granivory), the Ecuadorian Fernando Ortiz-Crespo (nectarivory), and the Chileans Juan Carlos Castilla (marine predation), Mario George-Nascimento (parasitism), Bernabé Santelices (marine herbivory), and Fabian Jaksic (terrestrial predation, and

general overview of South American research).

John Carothers from the University of California at Berkeley was by then conducting his doctoral thesis research in Santiago, and reviewed a first draft of the proposal. His comment was "much of this looks like the chance for old friends to get back together, rather than the initiation of new interactions". He was right, and so we had to change completely the list of North American participants. We finally came out with the following list, in the same sequence of expertises as above: Frederic Wagner, James Brown, Peter Feinsinger, Robert Paine, Wayne Sousa, Robert Vadas, Carl Marti (predation), and Eric Pianka (overview). We asked these ecologists to work together with their South American counterparts on each trophic-level interaction. Each participant was asked to review the methods being used in their area of ecology, questions being asked, and results being obtained in their field of research and on their continent. The pairs of ecologists were to work closely in developing papers to be presented at the workshop. Our goals were threefold: to examine similarities and differences in results obtained in North and South America, to identify gaps in knowledge, and to stimulate more collaboration between North and South American ecologists.

We submitted a preliminary proposal to SDC by January 1985. Christine French gave her approval as per scope, made new suggestions, and by the end of February we sent in the final draft. The workshop was then scheduled to take place in December of the same year. We were awarded the grant on August 1985, after scrutiny by five reviewers. The reviews were very interesting: One reviewer complained about the lack of freshwater stream research (but we had nobody to act as counterpart from South America); another about the tight time frame (we later postponed the work-

shop until August 1986); two reviewers were afraid that the proceedings would not be available to the U.S. scientific community and that papers written in Spanish would be "lost" (but the *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural* is now listed in ISI's Current Contents, and all papers are written in English); yet another reviewer complained about the absence of women in the workshop (but we later replaced two male participants by women). Indeed, both Wayne Sousa and Robert Vadas could not make it to the workshop (for different reasons) and we ended up with inviting Jane Lubchenco (herbivory) and Janice Moore (parasitism).

A workshop program and timetable was sent to all participants in October 1985, requesting from the North Americans a preliminary outline of their review papers by 15 January 1986; from the South Americans by 15 April (so that they could concur with their counterpart's paper); and final drafts from both counterparts by 15 July. One preliminary outline actually arrived in January (congratulations to Peter Feinsinger!), but most arrived much later (one in late July, we will not name names!). In general, everything ran smoothly: The workshop was scheduled for 20-28 August 1986, it was well publicized in Chile (not so much in Argentina), and both the Sociedad de Biología de Chile and the Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica supplied some funds for administrative expenses. Disaster seemed to strike when Fernando Ortiz-Crespo communicated on 7 August that he could not attend the workshop! We twisted Juan Armesto's arm into putting together something as a counterpart to Feinsinger's presentation. The "something" was not exactly nectarivory, but frugivory, but we must commend Juan for being able to prepare a review paper with only two-weeks notice.

The North Americans and the Argentines arrived right on time on 19 August; the review papers were presented between 20-23; visits were made to different research areas in Santiago and La Serena on 23-24; research lectures were presented by the North Americans on 25-26; overviews of North and South American research were presented and a roundtable discussion followed on 27; visits were made to different

research institutions in Santiago on 28; and participants disbanded on 29 August. We organized the workshop in a manner to maximize interactions among the participants and also with the audience. Each trophic-level interaction was covered separately in oral presentations by pairs of participants. A round table discussion involving all participants and the audience followed each pair of presentations.

Seventy-seven people registered (72 Chileans, 3 Argentines, 1 Mexican, and 1 U.S. citizen), and average attendance per session was 65. Of the 77 people registered, 25 were academics, 35 were graduate students (both Master's and Doctoral), and 17 were undergraduates, all from quite a variety of universities and other research institutions. One hundred and eight questions were asked over the review paper sessions (research lectures not included): 57% made by students, 28% by academics, and 15% by workshop participants. The exchange of opinions was lively, and the time always seemed short.

Papers submitted for publication started arriving in October 1986 (Feinsinger outdid himself once again), but most of them later on, with one arriving by the very end of December 1987. Only one participant (Jane Lubchenco) did not meet the deadline imposed by the publishing schedule of the *Revista*, and we hope to publish her paper in the near future. One paper in this issue was not actually presented at the workshop: we took the liberty of asking Eduardo Fuentes to provide a review complementary to Bucher's on herbivory.

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