

## FOREWORD

# Sandy Beaches '94

Playas de arena 94

EDUARDO JARAMILLO

Instituto de Zoología, Universidad Austral de Chile  
Casilla 567, Valdivia, Chile

This is a collection of articles resulting from the presentation of papers at the International Symposium "SANDY BEACHES '94" held in Valdivia, in September 1994. This was the second international meeting on the broad aspects of research carried out on exposed beaches around the world. The first Symposium was held at Port Elizabeth, South Africa in 1983.

The major goals of SANDY BEACHES '94 were to review the current state of research in sandy beach ecology, to discuss methodologies of sampling and data analyses, and to foster interactions and communications between sandy beach researchers.

The contributions were divided in five sessions of standard presentations and two workshops. The topics of those five sessions of standard presentation sessions were:

- community structure and organization of the macrofauna
- arthropods: distribution, migration and behaviour
- population variability and disturbance
- diatoms in the surf zone of sandy beaches
- coast types and beach morphodynamics

The workshops were devoted to zonation and sampling design and ecology and fisheries of sandy beach bivalves.

Twenty five papers were presented at SANDY BEACHES '94; eighteen of these

are included in this issue of the Revista Chilena de Historia Natural. This special issue highlights the attempt of researchers in the field to integrate physical and biological aspects in order to address key questions and thus elucidate certain aspects of the structure and dynamics of these coastal habitats.

Standard sessions and workshops were intended to be as possible. We also carried out field trips to the coast close to Valdivia to visit different categories of sandy beaches. A visit was also made to the field station of Instituto de Zoología at Mehufn, whose sandy beaches are among the best known in the country.

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