

PREFACE

This 5th Benelux Congress of Zoology, held at the University of Ghent on the 6th and 7th of November 1998, was an excellent congress! The 208 participants, 4 invited speakers, 55 oral contributions and 84 poster presentations, all of excellent quality, prove that "Zoology" is alive and well in the Benelux. Three student presentations were outstanding. Roy Erkens (University of Utrecht) was awarded the prize for the best student oral presentation and Adina Sannen (University of Antwerp) the prize for the best student poster presentation (both awarded by the Royal Belgian Zoological Society). Mathieu Denoël (University of Liege) was awarded the prize from the Royal Dutch Zoological Society for the best poster presented by a Ph.D. student.

The organisation was perfect, and on behalf of all those present, I congratulate and sincerely thank Dr. Ann Huysseune and the whole Ghent crew who made this possible. The organisation and, indeed, the material presented certainly give our younger students a taste of what major international congresses are about.

These proceedings of the 5th BCZ reflect the high quality of some of the contributions. Thanks to the efforts of the guest editor, Dr. Jan Mees and the associate editor Dr. Nikki Watson (who meticulously corrected the English in less than no time), the first manuscripts were delivered to the printer in January. However, without the considerable efforts of the Drukkerij Michiels n.v., it would not have been possible for you to have the proceedings of this congress in your hands less than three months after the congress took place.

Thanks to all who made this superb event possible.

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of the Royal Belgian Zoological Society