

Preface

The First European Regional Meeting of the International Society for Reef Studies, Vienna 93, was organized by the Institute of Palaeontology and the Institute of Zoology of the University of Vienna, between 16th and 20th December 1993. The meeting was open to all reef topics. The main goal, however, was gathering reef specialists who work in recent and ancient reefs, on biological as well as geological aspects. This intention was manifested by the plenary talk given by Priska Schäfer (Kiel): "Challenges and limitations for the studies of recent and fossil reef ecosystems." The broad field of interests was documented in abstracts of 72 oral and 17 poster presentations. To make at least some of these presentations available to a broader audience the present volume of the "Beiträge zur Paläontologie" is dedicated to this meeting.

Although only a minority of the talks presented during the meeting are published in this volume, the main intention of the meeting is well documented: biological aspects are reflected by the papers of FREIWALD, HOFMANN & HELLMANN, RIEGL & BLOOMER, and SCHOLZ, an ecological approach is brought in by the papers of KLEEMANN, MORRI & BIANCHI, RIEGL & COOK, and SCHUHMACHER et al., a tribute to environmental problems and reef monitoring is made by the papers of DELOS REYES & MARTENS and VOGT, whereas those of HUBMANN, HUESSNER et al., and WILLUMSEN deal with ancient examples.

Concerning the editorial work of this volume, the editor is grateful to all colleagues who reviewed the contributions and thereby improved the quality of the volume: J. Cabioch, J. Cortés, R. J. Cuffey, J. A. Fagerstrom, R. W. Grigg, B. G. Hatcher, D. K. Hofmann, T. Hughes, P. A. Hutchings, N. P. James, H. R. Lasker, M. Le Tissier, F. K. McKinney, L. F. Montaggioni, J. C. Ogden, W. Oxley, B. R. Pratt, B. Riegl, M. J. Risk, A. M. Szmant, and O. Weidlich. Special thanks are due to B. Riegl for his editorial assistance and to M. Thoeni for the kind layout of the volume.

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