



Editorial

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The present volume of *Zoosymposia* contains 27 articles on the topic of ‘echinoderm research’ relating to presentations at the seventh European Conference on Echinoderms that took place at the Georg-August University Göttingen in October 2010. Papers included in this proceedings volume are a reflection of new research and reviews presented during ten sessions of the 7th ECE (Reich & Reitner 2012, this volume).

The first five of these are related to the history of echinoderm research and conferences as well as the application of modern digital imaging techniques on echinoderms and other general themes. The following four articles concentrate on fossil Late Palaeozoic and Late Mesozoic crinoids. Next, a group of papers is concerned with the functional morphology, biology, systematics, and palaeontology of ophiuroids. One paper discusses autotomy in asteroids. The topic of the next three following articles is devoted to sea cucumbers. The next group of seven papers provide insights in morphology, developmental biology, ecology, and palaeontology of echinoids. The final two articles in this volume describe extinct echinoderms from Early Palaeozoic strata.

Together, this set of papers provides a coherent whole that addresses a wide range of issues relating to several topics of echinoderm research today, and reflect and reaffirm the continued fascination, vitality and relevance of “Sea Urchins, Starfishes & Allies”. We hope that this proceedings volume will be useful not only to the participants of the ECE but also to the scientific community in general. In this regard, we furthermore hope that this volume will encourage further research in this broad range of topics concerning echinoderms.

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References

- Reich, M. & Reitner, J. (2012) Preface—7th European Conference on Echinoderms. *In*: Kroh, A. & Reich, M. (Eds.), Echinoderm Research 2010: Proceedings of the Seventh European Conference on Echinoderms, Göttingen, Germany, 2–9 October 2010. *Zoosymposia*, 7, vii–ix. [this volume]