

PREFACE

Some decades ago, a Weddell seal or a Magellanic penguin departing to sea was not to be seen again until some hours or some days later they returned ashore, leaving scientists with a blank space in their knowledge of these animals' biology. Nowadays, thanks to the cleverness of a few pioneers and the constant progress in micro-technology, the blank is about to be filled up!

Bio-logging science has emerged as a new approach, in which data-recording or transmitting devices are attached to animals in order to collect large amounts of information about the biology of the animals moving freely in their environments or about the environment itself.

Over the past 20 years, bio-logging has evolved at an accelerated pace, involving researchers from diverse scientific branches and providing answers to a large variety of ecological, physiological or environmental questions.

The emergence of bio-logging as a new field of research has led scientists to gather from all over the world to share the results of their works for the first-ever Bio-logging Science Symposium, held at the National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan, between the 17th and 21st of March 2003.

As bio-logging science is spreading across animal species and scientific disciplines, we hope these proceedings of the bio-logging symposium to serve as the foundation of this new area of research, in which young—and less young—researchers will find inspiration for innovative approaches of our environment.

The editorial board