

## Foreword

The Eighth Symposium of Polar Biology was held at the National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo from 4 to 6 December 1985. A total of 120 scientists participated in the meeting and 41 papers were presented in the oral session and 4 in the poster session.

Since the Fifth Symposium in 1981, three ordinal symposia in 1983, 1984 and 1985, with the BIOMASS Colloquium in 1982, were devoted mainly to the presentation of the results of marine biological researches in conjunction with the progress of an international research program, Biological Investigations of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks (BIOMASS). The Fifth Symposium focused on the results of Japanese activities relating to the First International BIOMASS Experiments (FIBEX). The Sixth Symposium dealt with the generally BIOMASS-related works. The Seventh Symposium was convened to discuss the results of the Second International BIOMASS Experiments Phase I (SIBEX I) including the researches by foreign scientists.

The present Symposium comprises not only the session on marine biology but also the session of terrestrial biology, because the Japanese Antarctic Research Expeditions have undertaken their investigations of the terrestrial biota in the ice-free areas in the vicinity of Syowa Station concurrently with BIOMASS and their data have been accumulated to be reviewed. The topics of marine biology consist mainly of the outcomes of the coastal marine ecosystem researches which were carried out in the Syowa Station area during 1982 to 1984 winters, the results of researches on board the KAIYO MARU and the SHIRASE which took part in the Second International BIOMASS Experiments Phase II (SIBEX II) in the 1984–85 summer.

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