

EDITORIAL

**Integration of ecology and biology for the management of rodents:
International perspectives 3**

This special issue of *Integrative Zoology* is the third and final one in a series of issues containing papers presented at the Third International Conference on Rodent Biology and Management (ICRBM). The conference was held in Hanoi, Vietnam in August 2006 and focused on the areas of rodent biology, ecology and management (for details, please see the summary report by C. J. Krebs see *Integrative Zoology*, 1(4), 194–195). The 1st ICRBM was held in Beijing, China, in 1998. The 2nd ICRBM was held in Canberra, Australia, in 2003. Papers of these two conferences were also published (Singleton *et al.* 1999; Singleton *et al.* 2003). This special issue contains a diverse range of papers examining rodents in urban environments, rodent behaviour and biology, and rodents in agricultural systems.

Three papers examine rodents in urban areas. Promkerd *et al.* (2008) present their findings from field and household surveys of rodents in a city in Lao PDR and determine factors that explain their abundance. Taylor *et al.* (2008) present a new model for managing sanitary risks due to rodent zoonoses based on work conducted in an African city. A broad scale investigation into the role of rodents as reservoirs of parasites is presented by Singla *et al.* (2008) using India as a case-study.

The role of rodents in agricultural areas is dealt with in two papers. Massawe *et al.* (2008) describe how soil type can limit the abundance of populations of rodents in crop fields, using the multimammate rat (*Mastomys natalensis*) as a focal species. Jacob (2008) reviews the response of small rodents to changes in vegetation height in various agro-ecosystems.

Two papers address aspects of rodent biology and ecol-

ogy directly. Odhiambo *et al.* (2008) describe the demography, reproductive biology and diet of the bushveld gerbil from south-western Tanzania. Sundell and Ylonen (2008) review the role of specialist predators in multi-species prey systems by examining research on boreal voles and weasels.

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