Adaptations to Terrestrial Environments

Edited by N. S. Margaris, M. Arianoutsou-Faraggitaki, and R. J. Reiter

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PREFACE

Contraction of

The present volume contains selected papers of the International Symposium on Adaptations to Terrestrial Environment, held in Halkidiki, Greece from Sept 26th to Oct 2nd, 1982.

The meeting was designed to consider the means as well as the mechanisms whereby organisms adapt to their environment. The papers presented dealt with a large variety of species from insects up to and including mammals. What became apparent during the course of the meeting was the incredible variety of means that organisms use to survive in their particular environmental niche. The ploys utilized are almost as numerous as the number of species investigated. This will become clearly apparent in the accompanying manuscripts which are published in this book. The Editors allowed the authors of the accepted papers great leeway in terms of the thoroughness of their contributions. Some of the presentations contain exclusively new findings, whereas others extensively review the existing literature.

The Volume is divided into two parts: Invertebrates and Vertebrates. The first provides information on adaptations of invertebrates on environmental stresses (such as low or high temperatures and water deficits) from the physiological and/or biochemical points of view as well as behavioral responses resulting from their life strategies and interactions with other organisms. In the second part papers selected deal with vertebrates. Adaptations to special environmental factors such as light and temperature are discussed as well as behavioral, physiological and biochemical solutions to problems imposed.

The Editors would like to express their thankfulnes to UNESCO

for sponsoring the Symposium in the frame of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program; to all scientists who have contributed papers in this volume; and to Mrs A. Karamanli-Vlahopoulou for her patient and skillful typing of the manuscript.

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