
Plenary Talks

5 critical areas for rodent population biology

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I will review briefly the strong inference approach that has characterized the great progress population ecology has maintained for the last 60 years. Population ecology is the cornerstone of all ecological studies, and without good population studies we cannot make progress in answering the scientific problems that confront us today. I concentrate my talk on 5 areas of rodent population ecology - population dynamics, the problem of rarity, pest management, the economic impacts of rodents, and landscape ecology. I will highlight the progress we have made and the major questions that are not yet resolved, including the impacts of climate change, the regulation of breeding seasons, the problem of infanticide, and the role of chronic stress in rodent demography. The problem of rarity in rodents is rarely discussed, and yet is so critical for the conservation of rare species. We have no clear ideas about why so many species are so rare. I will cover some highlights of progress in pest management, with an overview of fertility control issues and the use of poisons. The economic impacts of rodents in forestry are important in many countries, as are landscape ecology issues that are most difficult to study yet most important in our human-modified landscapes. The importance of long-term monitoring underlies much of what we need to do in our future research. All these areas of rodent population biology will be addressed in more detail in the plenary talks and in many of the presentations at this conference. Much has been achieved and much remains to be done.

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Julius-Kühn-Archiv

Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
and
16th Rodens et Spatium

Potsdam, Germany, 3-7 September 2018

Book of Abstracts



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Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek

Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation

In der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie: detaillierte bibliografische

Daten sind im Internet über <http://dnb.d-nb.de> abrufbar.

ISSN 1868-9892

ISBN 978-3-95547-059-3

DOI 10.5073/jka.2018.459.000



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Printed in Germany by Arno Brynda GmbH, Berlin.