

Institute of General and Experimental Biology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences;
Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism of Mongolia;
Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, and Sports of Mongolia;
Commission on Marmot Investigation of the Theriological Society at the Russian Academy of Sciences
Mammalian Ecological Society of Mongolia;
Joint Russian–Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition of RAS and MAS



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МЭХТ-ийн
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PROCEEDINGS of the **7th**
International Conference
on the Genus *Marmota*
Marmots of the
Old and New World

13–17, August, **2018** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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Joint Russian–Mongolian Complex Biological Expedition of Russian Academy of Sciences and Academy of Sciences of Mongolia

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PREFACE

The first international conference of marmot scientists took place in Italy (Aosta, 1991), and the II conference was held in 1994 in France (Aussois). The III international conference took place in August, 1997 in Cheboksar (Russia), while the IV conference was held in Montreux, Switzerland in September, 2002. At the suggestion of the International Marmot Scientists' Bureau, the Vth international conference was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the VI conference was held in Italy again in 2008 in Cogne, Valle d'Aosta. The VII conference was planned to be held in Slovakia, however, due to circumstances, it was canceled.

Seventeen years after the first international conference in Aosta, Italy, in 1991, under the leadership of the Institute of General & Experimental Biology of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism of Mongolia, and in cooperation with scientists and researchers from Mongolia and other countries, we are organizing the VII international conference on marmot research in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city of Mongolia.

In the "Marmots of the Old and New World" conference, 121 scientists and researchers from 13 countries, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Austria, England, the USA, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, France, China, and Japan, have already sent us the results of their studies, and 52 abstracts and 28 papers have been published in a conference proceedings. The conference proceedings have covered many interesting topics including the world distribution of marmot species, marmot population numbers, ecological and biological characteristics, historical reviews of regional data and research, studies of marmot taxonomy using modern molecular biology methods, determination of species genome sequences, studies of marmot skin gland structure using electronic microscopy and accompanying discussion of behavioral and scent identification and signal issues, marmot handling experiences, and auditory communication among different species of marmot.

As a part of our preparations for the VII conference of marmot scientists, we summarized and published the main results and abstracts of the previous six conferences, and we have organized a photo contest among amateur marmot lovers and researchers showing the different colors, body structure, and specific behavioral characteristics of all 15 of the world's marmot species. We have also produced a short educational and popular movie on marmot ecology, biology, sustainable use, and conservation activities.

All these activities and documents will be valuable resources for marmot lovers, scientists, researchers, rangers, and conservationists, university teachers and students, as well as policymakers and stakeholders.

Our deepest gratitude goes to sponsors and organizers of this important conference, including the Ministry of Nature, Environment, and Tourism of Mongolia, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and, of course, to those scientists and individuals who have worked so hard to make this conference successful.

DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF GENERAL AND EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY,
MONGOLIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ADIYA YANSANJAV

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وہی ہے جس نے ہمیں یہ سب کچھ سکھایا ہے۔ ہم نے اس سے سیکھا ہے کہ ہمیں اپنے آپ کو بچانے کے لیے کیا کرنا چاہیے۔ ہم نے اس سے سیکھا ہے کہ ہمیں اپنے آپ کو بچانے کے لیے کیا کرنا چاہیے۔ ہم نے اس سے سیکھا ہے کہ ہمیں اپنے آپ کو بچانے کے لیے کیا کرنا چاہیے۔

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