

Preface

The series Ecology and Control of Vector-borne Diseases was launched in 2007 with Volume I providing an overview on the emergence of pests and vector-borne diseases in Europe. This first volume has been well received, and was the starting point of an overview of the state of the art of various topics that are relevant for this field of science. In the past decade the world has witnessed an increasing number of outbreaks of vector-borne diseases as well as invasions of vectors and/or pathogens. Whereas in the previous century many of these diseases were eliminated from the temperate climate zones, some of them are found to expand their distribution, with invasions of Europe, North America and Australia. Many of these events are associated with environmental change and find their explanation by the often complex ecological processes that drive the transmission of the pathogens. The prevention and control of these diseases requires in-depth knowledge of the arthropods that transmit the pathogens. This book series aims for highlighting specific aspects of the ecology of these vectors that can be exploited for the prevention and control of these diseases.

The current volume addresses the topic of how blood-feeding arthropods interact with their vertebrate hosts. As the transmission of infectious vector-borne pathogens is much dependent on the contact between vector and host, the efficacy of host location is of profound importance. Interruption of vector-host contact is considered one of the most effective means of vector-borne disease control, as is currently witnessed by the successful use of insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria prevention in sub-Saharan Africa.

As with Volume I, this book is a collaboration of a large number of scientists, each experts in their specific field, who have written comprehensive overviews of specific aspects of olfaction-mediated arthropod behaviour. Each chapter was reviewed by independent reviewers, and subsequently adjusted as needed. We are grateful to the anonymous reviewers, as we realise that this takes time and effort. We thank Mike Jacobs and Marijn van der Gaag of Wageningen Academic Publishers for their patience and useful advice. We thank Hans Smid for once more having contributed to the cover design. Special thanks to Françoise Kaminker, who has language-edited several chapters, and provided useful advice.

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