

Research in Biological Education

A selection of papers presented at the
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

Dirk Krüger and Margareta Ekborg	9
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SECTION 1: STUDENT CONCEPTIONS, TEACHER CONCEPTIONS AND TEACHER KNOWLEDGE 11

1 THE ROLE OF CONCEPTIONS, METAPHORS, AND ANALOGIES IN STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF SEEING Sarah Dannemann and Dirk Krüger	13
2 THE INTERPRETATION OF STUDENTS' LAMARCKIAN EXPLANATIONS Kerst Boersma and Caspar Geraedts	29
3 EFFECTS OF EXPERIMENTS FOR STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF PLANT NUTRITION Tanja Braun and Marcus Schrenk.....	43
4 CHANCE AND DETERMINISM IN EVOLUTION: TEACHERS' CONCEPTIONS IN 21 COUNTRIES Pierre Clément	55
5 CHARACTERIZING THE TACIT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BIOLOGY TEACHERS' CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (CK) AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMPONENTS Ronit Rozenszajn and Anat Yarden.....	73

SECTION 2: BIOLOGY EDUCATION IN INFORMAL SETTINGS 87

6 BEGINNING BIOLOGY– INTEREST AND INQUIRY IN THE EARLY YEARS Annette Scheersoij and Sue Dale Tunnicliffe.....	89
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SECTION 3: MODELS AND MODELING 101

- 7 STUDENTS' VERSUS SCIENTISTS' CONCEPTIONS OF MODELS AND MODELLING
Ulrike Trier, Dirk Krüger, and Annette Upmeier zu Belzen 103
- 8 HOW YEAR 7 TO YEAR 10 STUDENTS CATEGORISE MODELS: MOVING TOWARDS A STUDENT-BASED TYPOLOGY OF BIOLOGICAL MODELS
Moritz Krell, Annette Upmeier zu Belzen, and Dirk Krüger 117

SECTION 4: TEACHING: TEACHING STRATEGIES, TEACHING SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT 133

- 9 DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO CRITIQUE IN THE COURSE OF INQUIRY-ORIENTED PROGRAMS IN BIOLOGY
Tom Bielik and Anat Yarden..... 135
- 10 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ACTIVITY OF TWO TEACHERS IN TERMS OF PUPIL'S ACCULTURATION TO SCIENCE
Patricia Schneeberger, Yann Lhoste, and Brigitte Peterfalvi 149
- 11 CONTENT CHOICES WITHIN A CONCEPT-CONTEXT APPROACH IN PRIMARY SCIENCE EDUCATION
Annelotte Lammers, Ronald Keijzer and Marja van Graft..... 163
- 12 ARGUMENTS, VALUES & BELIEFS OF PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS DISCUSSING SOCIO-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES
Marina Castells, Aikaterini Konstantinidou, and Josep M. Cerveró 177
- 13 THE APPLICATION OF CONCEPT MAPS IN TEACHING INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
Jelena D. Stanisavljević and Ljubiša Ž. Stanisavljević 197
- 14 HIGH-SCHOOL TEACHERS' APPROPRIATION OF AN INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM IN BIOINFORMATICS
Yossy Machluf, Hadas Gelbart, and Anat Yarden 213

PREFACE

This volume contains 14 selected papers from the 9th Conference of European Researchers in Didactics of Biology (ERIDOB). ERIDOB's well established conferences attract about 200 biology education researchers from Europe as well as from countries far beyond its borders. For 16 years now, researchers in didactics of biology have come together at the biennial conference to exchange research questions, designs, instruments, results, interpretations, and conclusions. The intention of ERIDOB is to provide an opportunity for researchers with diverse experiences to discuss biology education research.

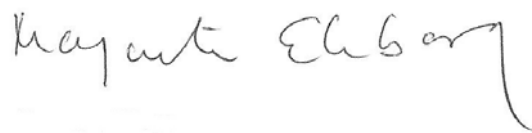
In order to widen the field of themes for discussion and submission of interesting papers from researchers of biology didactics, the academic committee at the last ERIDOB conference in Braga, Portugal, 2008 decided not to select a theme for the 2012 conference. The 2012 conference was organized by and held at Freie Universität Berlin, in Berlin, Germany. From initially over 170 contributions, 56 papers were presented as oral presentations and 58 as poster presentations at the 9th conference. All presentations were arranged in 12 strands: Environmental education; health education; biology education in informal settings; scientific thinking; argumentation; models and modeling; teaching strategies; teaching socio-scientific issues; teaching genetics; pedagogical content knowledge; student conceptions; interest and motivation; and two symposia: supporting students' interactions with socio-scientific issues; teaching evolution: cognitive and affective factors.

All papers presented at the conference and published have been double reviewed by a minimum of one member of the academic committee and by one experienced participant of ERIDOB and reviewer of biology educational journals. Out of twenty excellent papers chosen for publication in the proceedings of the ERIDOB conference six were included in a special issue of the Journal of Biological Education (Vol. 47, Issue 3, 2013). The choice of papers was based on the intention to illustrate both the high quality and diversity of current European research in biological education. The 14 papers presented in this volume address topics in the areas of student conceptions, teacher conceptions and teacher knowledge (section 1), biology education in informal settings (section 2), models and modeling (section 3), and teaching strategies, teaching socio-scientific issues and curriculum development (section 4).

The next ERIDOB conference takes place at the University of Haifa, Israel, in 2014. The family atmosphere of an ERIDOB conference offers possibilities of recognising and exploring European research cultures with the intention of building a strong and internationally coherent research culture. Newcomers are warmly welcomed.



Dirk Krüger



Margareta Ekborg

