

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ACAROLGY

Prepared by Natalie Theron, Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology

The 14th International Congress of Acarology was held in Kyoto, Japan, in July (2014). It is the major international meeting held every four years for acarologists (scientists studying mites and ticks) around the world and is hosted in a different country every time. More than 300 scientists from 43 countries presented their research over five days. A variety of topics were discussed in numerous symposia sessions, including biological control, invertebrate interactions, pathogen associates and conservation management. It became very clear that there is a vast lack of knowledge regarding mites and the role they fulfil in the environment, especially in Africa.

I visited Prof Tetsuo Gotoh at the Ibaraki University. His research mainly focuses on an international agriculturally important mite group *Tetranychidae* (Spider mites). Spider mites are a major agricultural pest that feed on a wide variety of crops.



Delegates attending the 14th International Congress of Acarology at Kyoto Terra, Kyoto, Japan. (photo courtesy of Ms Tomoe Sekido, Kyoto University)

Attending the conference provided an opportunity to share my work with fellow researchers and received valuable feedback. During the conference I met with world-renowned acarologists and established research networks for future collaborations.