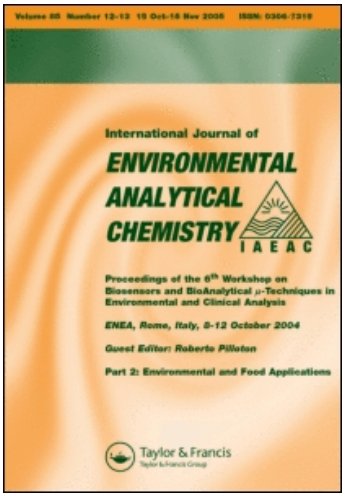

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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The 2nd European Conference on "Pesticides and Related Organic Micropollutants in the Environment" was organized by the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Applied Agro-Ecology of the University of Ioannina and by the Association of Greek Chemists, and held in Corfu (Kerkyra, Greece) on 26–29 September 2002. The meeting was attended by over 180 delegates from 18 countries. The success of the meeting was largely due to the high quality of its scientific programme.

The 2nd European Conference reviewed current and recent research on many aspects of physicochemical and biological processes controlling the behaviour and fate of pesticides and related organic micropollutants in the environment. Novel analytical techniques for pesticide residues in the environment and agricultural products and techniques for environmental protection and restoration were the main topics. Scientists from European and other countries exchanged ideas on several aspects of serious problems concerning the quality of the natural environment and life.

In total, 99 scientific communications were presented and 9 invited speakers delivered plenary talks on different topics. Fifty-five papers were presented orally and there were forty-four poster presentations that covered the following topics:

1. Analytical and Evaluation Techniques
2. Analytical Methods and Applications
3. Pesticide Levels and Behaviour in the Environment
4. Environmental Protection and Restoration Techniques
5. Pesticide Residues in Soil and Cultivation Products
6. Environmental Effects and Toxicity
7. Transportation and Fate Models and Regulations

Twenty-three selected papers from the 2nd European Conference sessions, including two of the invited talks, are gathered in this special volume of *International Journal of Environmental Analytical Chemistry*. We are grateful to the authors for contributing and sharing their own expertise, to the reviewers of the papers for ensuring high scientific standards, to the sponsors of the conference for their financial support and to all the participants for their involvement in the exchange of knowledge, which was the essence of the conference.

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