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Foreword

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FOREWORD

This volume presents the experimental activities conducted by the Italian Research Units during four Antarctica Expeditions (Austral Summers 1987–88, 1988–89, 1989–90, 1989/90). The scientific results were presented at the Second Meeting on Environmental Impact—Chemical Methodologies, Venice, May 26–28, 1992 and represent the consolidation of the Italian research conducted by the Environmental Impact sector, one year after the conclusion of the first multi-year Program of Italian Research in Antarctica. The work of gathering historical series of data is continuing, the studies concerning several distribution processes of chemical substances are being examined more closely and the knowledge of atmospheric chemistry is being enriched.

The results obtained confirm the necessity of turning to the use of advanced analytical methodologies for the determination and study of synthetic chemical substances. The presence of these substances in the Antarctic continent are the testimony of the existence of diffusion and transferral processes which, at this point, involve the entire planet.

Particularly noteworthy are the studies regarding:

- Anthropogenic Organic Compounds in Environmental Antarctic Matrices.
- Seasonal Snow Trend and Chemical Composition at Terra Nova Bay.
- Marine and Terrestrial Radio Ecological Research in Antarctica.
- Air-Sea Exchange and Transport of Marine Organic Matter in the Antarctic Snow.

It is worth noting that in the course of the above mentioned convention, all of the session were preceded by an invitational conference to synthesise the results of the research previously carried out, grouped as follows:

- Organic Compounds
- Trace and Minor Elements
- Atmospheric Deposition
- Air and Aerosol

Four foreign scientists (C. F. Boutron, University of Grenoble, France; M. Oehme, Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Norway; G. C. Cripps, British Antarctic Survey, U.K.; J. Shears, British Antarctic Survey U.K.), invited to hold a plenary conference, were the discussion leaders at the principal sessions. They conducted a critical analysis of the results presented and came to the conclusion that the Italian scientists of the “Environmental Impact—Chemical Methodologies” Sector have reached an appreciable cognitive level of

the Antarctic system in only four years of work, this thanks to the systematic approach of the studies which confronted all the components. Stimulating observations on scientific results of particular interest were not lacking.

We hope that with the publication of these studies we will encourage scientists to contribute to the advancement of the knowledge of this remote region of our planet.

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