Preface

This double issue of Folia Primatologica is devoted to a review of recent research on capuchin monkeys (*Cebus* species). The idea of publishing such a review was hatched at the 12th Congress of the International Primatological Society, held in Brasilia from 24th to 29th July 1988. At that Congress, a well-attended Symposium entitled 'Towards understanding behavioral adaptability in *Cebus*' was organised by Elisabetta Visalberghi and Dorothy Fragaszy (now Munckenbeck Fragaszy). This symposium highlighted the special interest that attaches to research on capuchin monkeys, not least because among primates they rank second to humans in terms of relative brain size. Somewhat surprisingly, however, the capuchin monkeys have been relatively neglected in the recent literature and the time seemed ripe for an overview of new results

from a variety of fields. I therefore invited Elisabetta Visalberghi, Dorothy Fragaszy and John Robinson to serve as Guest Editors of a special issue primarily based on the papers given in Brasilia. [Two additional papers dealing with research on *Cebus* submitted to the journal separately were subsequently included.] I am very grateful to these three capuchinologists for the invaluable and time-consuming work that they did on the editorial side. Indeed, Elisabetta Visalberghi has recently joined the Editorial Board of Folia Primatologica partly in recognition of her special contribution in this respect. We hope that readers of this double issue will find capuchin monkeys as fascinating as we all do.

R. D. Martin Zurich, 9th May 1990