

Editorial

During the past year, for the first time the two editors oversaw all published papers in *Systematic Entomology* from submission to print. Here we take the opportunity to communicate with our readers and current and prospective authors.

First to some statistics: in 2004 we published two editorials, two opinion pieces and one response, twenty-seven original articles of average length nineteen pages (8–42 pages), plus seven book reviews, to total 572 pages. Trends evident in 2003 continue (Cranston & Krell, 2004), including the multinational locations of published authors: first authors' countries of residence were Argentina (2), Austria (2), Australia (2), Brazil (3), Canada (2), Denmark, Finland, France (2), Japan (2), Netherlands, South Africa (2), Spain, the U.K. (2) and the U.S.A. (7). Domiciles of many co-authors were in the U.K. and the U.S.A., and Italy is added to the panoply. It is with sadness that we join our Danish colleagues (and entomologists in general) in lamenting the premature death of colleague Nils Møller Andersen, whose co-authored article on the phylogeny of water bugs was published in issue 4 (Hebsgaard *et al.*, 2004) and whose book with Tom Weir on Australian water bugs was reviewed in issue 3 (Cranston, 2004).

Given the global source of submitted manuscripts, we are pleased to announce that the advisory board for *Systematic Entomology* has been increased by three, following discussions with Mike Claridge (Royal Entomological Society) and Liz Ferguson (Blackwell Publishing) at the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane. The rationale for our choice (and perhaps neglect of other suggestions) was geographical and taxonomic expansion. Thus, we now have representation in South America, a continent from which we receive many submissions, and a newcoming board member from Japan – another country from which we receive increasing numbers of manuscripts. So we welcome Dr Claudia Szumik INSUE – CONICET, Tucuman, Argentina, Daniela Maeda Takiya, a Brazilian still studying for her PhD at Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois, U.S.A., and Dr Kazunori Yoshizawa of Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan. Taxonomic coverage thus expands to include Embioptera, Cicadellidae and Psocoptera, and a pleasant consequence is a proportionate decrease in grey-haired males ...

Technological advances have continued in 2004. Virtually all submissions are electronic, as is 95% of refereeing. The editors decided not to adopt a structured electronic submission handling system – with some 100 submissions per year, we can indulge our preference to contact our referees personally, requesting particular expertise and relieving reviewers of the complexities of log-ins, passwords and

inappropriate text format for easy review. Diligent referees are a most important resource: as editors we have a responsibility to ease their task by filtering out inappropriate manuscripts, and sending out scripts in a referee-preferred format. Despite this, our time from acceptance to journal paper publication has extended to, on average, 34 weeks. We have addressed this problem in several ways. We have argued for, and been given, an increased page allocation for 2005, but have resisted moving to more than four issues per year. We have used pages of linked supplementary material provided by Blackwell Publishing for 'non-core' data and trees, and we encourage authors to consider this facility. Furthermore, authors now receive their proofs soon after acceptance, as PDFs for download.

OnlineEarly

Perhaps the major change for current and prospective authors concerns e-publication. In keeping with our aim to make good manuscripts available to the academic community as quickly as possible, we are reducing time to publication by joining the Blackwell Synergy *OnlineEarly* service. Thus, fully peer-reviewed, edited and proofed articles (without sacrifice of quality or completeness) will be published online on a regular basis in advance of their print appearance. These articles, which lack only page numbers and volume/issue details, but which can be accessed through digital object identifiers (DOIs), are considered fully published from the date of first online appearance. This date is associated with the article in the online table of contents, on each print issue paper article, the back page contents and annual table of contents. Because *OnlineEarly* articles are considered fully complete, authors must note that no changes can be made after the online publication date, even if it is yet to appear in print. To view articles currently available as full text HTML or as PDFs, simply click on the '*OnlineEarly*' area of the journal homepage at <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/>. On print publication, the article will be moved, unchanged, to the relevant online issue, complete with page numbers and volume/issue details.

Articles can be cited as references by using their DOIs. For more information on DOIs, please see <http://www.doi.org/faq.html>. We are cognizant of issues of dating of taxonomic decisions that can arise for new taxa that we publish in *Systematic Entomology*, and for this reason we support any authors that wish to exclude themselves from *OnlineEarly*. However, we support with enthusiasm the proposed initiative of Jerald Harris (2004), which bestows

to the unique DOI number the primary role in tracking of location and date of e-publication. We trust that the ICZN will acknowledge the value of this system and accept such electronic pre-publications for nomenclatural purposes without the anarchy that could come with an unmanaged scheme. Until such a ruling is made, we note that the present Code (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, 1999), although denying 'text or illustrations distributed by means of electronic signals', does not recommend withholding new names until they are published formally, but recommends including a disclaimer according to Art. 8.2 in any work which might look like a formal publication but is not (Recommendation 8E). Until a satisfactory ruling giving credence to DOI-citing e-journals, we will state on any electronically pre-published paper that includes date-sensitive nomenclatural actions that it is 'Unpublished for the purposes of zoological nomenclature (Art. 8.2. ICZN)'. This does not mean that it is unpublished: it is a published piece of peer-reviewed work which can go into CVs and certify the priority of findings and ideas, but is considered unpub-

lished for nomenclatural purposes only. Therefore, every pre-published paper will contain an e-publication date.

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