

Editorial

Dear Myrmecologist!

Writing editorials has been an occasion for us to summarise developments at Myrmecological News' since the previous volume's publication. On the occasion of volume 12, we recount events since August 2008.

One of the internal developments actually is better described as a positive stasis: besides publishing exciting original articles, we have continued with invited review articles. In volume 12, leading authorities have contributed comprehensive and stimulating reviews of conservation biology, navigation, immune biology, social parasitism, taxonomy, and the evolution of ants from a molecular point of view. In addition, a review on army ant biology has commenced a series of reviews focussing on major life history strategies. Contributions on other life histories are in the pipeline. This series intends to boost attention to life history research. Only by establishing a sound organismal foundation will myrmecology be able to fully capitalise on the ever increasing range of modern tools available now that myrmecology is traversing into the post-genomic age.

Myrmecological News has also continued pursuing its declared goal of overcoming the taxonomic impediment. Among a range of taxonomic primary contributions in volume 12 are descriptions of new ant species, increasing the total count of new taxa described in the journal to 47.

A new type of contributions, termed Focus, was created after consultation with the editorial advisory board. Focus articles are brief contributions, succinctly communicating points of view, ideas, thoughts or perspectives of outstanding interest, inspiring and reasonable suggestions of research avenues, or fair criticism. The first Focus article intends to increase awareness of the different types of pseudogenes when using mitochondrial DNA as a molecular marker and encourages reporting of ant pseudogenes when they are encountered.

At the journal's homepage, two new, monthly updated sections have been created: One is a list of citations of Myrmecological News contributions in journals that are included in the Web of Science. The list is very encouraging – Myrmecological News contributions are being cited frequently and the citations include many in the top-tier life science journals. The other new section, "In the media", lists the reports of and comments on Myrmecological News contributions in the media.

What might be considered most exciting, though, is an external development: recently, Myrmecological News has been included in SCOPUS. SCOPUS (Elsevier Bibliographic Databases) is the largest abstract and citation database of research literature and quality web sources. Inclusion in SCOPUS has further increased accessibility of the journal's content and we expect the list of nations from which visitors hit the journal's homepage to soon exceed 100.

What's the next goal? The Web of Science! We expect the result of the evaluation for inclusion in the Web of Science by mid 2010, after publication of volume 13. In this critical phase, Myrmecological News will especially profit from citations of its papers. Please note that, should the need arise to cite the abridged name, the only valid abbreviation for the journal's title is "Myrmecol. News".

Last but not least: over a hundred people contributed to volume 12, as authors, referees, members of the editorial advisory board, and in various other ways, and this is the place to express our sincere gratitude to all of them!

*We hope you will enjoy volume 12,
Cordially yours,*

*Florian Steiner, Herbert Zettel, Birgit Schlick-Steiner
Innsbruck and Vienna, August 2009*