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Amphibia-Reptilia



Publication of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica



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Amphibia-Reptilia:

Editorial report 2005-2007

Last OGM to now

Good news again!

M. Denoël, Co-Editor



Summary of the last editorial report at Köln (2005), specifically the main implemented changes

- Change of the layout to a slightly larger and two-column width format
- Increase in page numbers (600 instead of 500)
- Presentation of short-notes on separate pages
- Separate pdfs for short-notes on the Ingenta web site
- Slightly restricted scope but also extension
- Progressive change towards on-line procedures
- Edition of detailed instruction to authors
- Increase of the size of the Advisory Editorial Board

These procedures allowed to start a reduction of the huge backlog (initially: 6 issues), to be more attractive, to publish more papers every year, to reduce the costs, and to speed up publication time.

But this was just a first step...

The second step: 2005-2007

1. Received manuscripts

The number of submission increased from 123 in 2005 to 152 in 2006. it remains stable in 2007. With the new procedures (see herein), we hope new increases, particularly of good manuscripts.

Origin of ms: mainly Europe, but also North and South America. Asia, Oceanica and Africa at a lesser extent.

2. Rejection rate

It remains stable, i.e. above 60%. This is not an aim but a trade-off with respect to quality, available space and quantity of available manuscripts.



The second step: 2005-2007

3. Slightly reducing but also extending the scope

To resolve the backlog problem and maintain Amphibia-Reptilia competitive with other indexed journals, the scope was slightly changed to focus primarily (but not only), on more conceptual papers and papers with sufficient data sets.

With respect to the scope of the journal about ethics, we have now applied many editorial rejections to papers in which euthanasia was applied when it was not necessary (cf alternatives).

On the other hand, we now welcome reviews but also particularly innovative manuscripts on new techniques

4. Advertising on HerpNet

To facilitate communication, we send editorial reports, SEH news and links to newly published papers on Herpnet.



The second step: 2005-2007

5. Associate Editors



A board of Associate Editors has been created. Its aim is to diversify the specialities of editors and by alleviating the work charge, this allows to speed up the publication process

AEs are chosen by editors for a part of manuscripts only. This means that editors continue to deal directly with manuscripts too. Final decisions is always taken by editors, usually in following recommendations of AEs.

Members: Robert Jehle, Francesco Ficetola, Jerry Lea, Thomas Madsen and Benedikt Schmidt

This new procedure was launched in late 2006 and works perfectly thanks to the great job of our AEs.

6. Advisory Editorial board - Reviewers

With the departure of some members who joined the board of AEs, we welcomed new members in the Advisory Editorial Board (i.e., a board of internal reviewers). Thanks to all reviewers who helped us.



7. Changes in the instructions to authors

More detailed instructions to authors were provided in 2006 and 2007. They favour the submission of correctly designed manuscripts, which allows to speed up the publication process and avoid additional work charge for editors and reviewers.

To facilitate indexation of our journal, keywords and abstracts are now requested for each manuscript, including short-notes.

8. Publication schedule

Issues of Amphibia-Reptilia used to be published around in March, June, September, and December. To avoid intra-year delays, Brill advanced the printing schedule of our journal by at least two months.

9. Indexation in Web of Science

A new communication procedure has been implemented between ISI and Brill in order to get published issues available earlier in the Web of Science data basis. Some progress remains to be made.

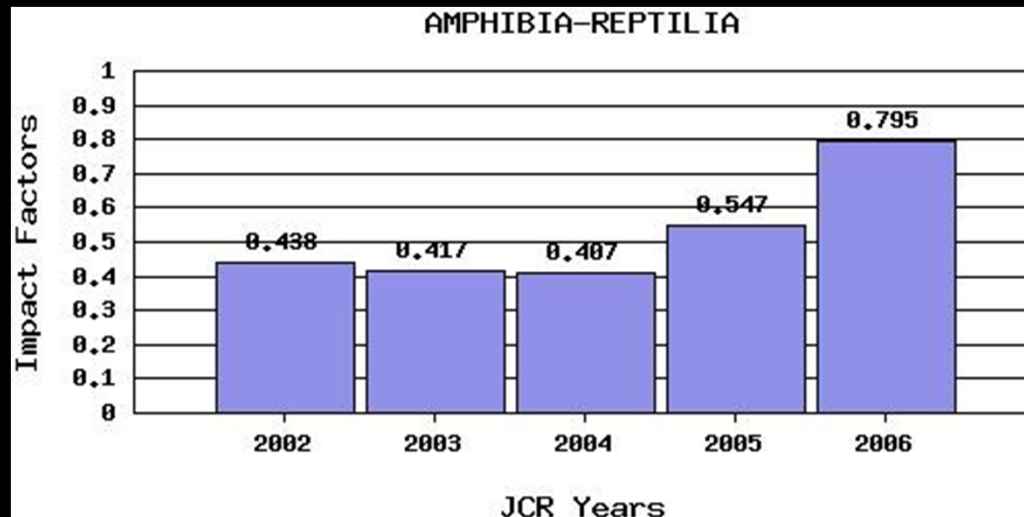


10. Impact factors

This is not an aim to have a high impact factor but having an increase is interesting because :

- Many scientists choose journals according to IFs.
- This means that more people cite and thus read the journal
- The quality is expected to be higher (in comparison with similar journals)
- The journal remains competitive

The impact factor of Amphibia-Reptilia has increased from 0.4 in 2002-2004, to 0.5 in 2005 and almost 0.8 in 2006.



The last increase was the highest for herp journals

We expect a continued increase next year

11. Editorial Manager

In collaboration with Brill, we have built a web-platform (Editorial Manager) for the submission of manuscripts. This will replace the current email submission procedure. The main advantage of this system would be to speed up all the procedures from the first submission of a manuscript to its publication. This will save much time and provide more detailed data to all parties.

Michiel Thijsen from Brill will present you this on-line system just after my speech.



The screenshot displays the Editorial Manager web interface. The top navigation bar is dark blue with the journal title 'Amphibia-Reptilia' on the left and the 'em Editorial Manager' logo on the right. A menu of links is visible, including 'HOME', 'LOGIN', 'HELP', 'REGISTER', 'UPDATE MY INFORMATION', 'JOURNAL OVERVIEW', 'MAIN MENU', 'CONTACT US', 'SUBMIT A MANUSCRIPT', and 'INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS'. The main content area is white and features the Brill logo on the left, a small image of the journal cover, and a central welcome message. On the right side, there is a section titled 'Guidelines and Help Resources' with a list of links. The interface also shows 'Not logged in.' and 'EM Version: 5.0'.

Amphibia-Reptilia

em Editorial Manager

HOME • LOGIN • HELP • REGISTER • UPDATE MY INFORMATION • JOURNAL OVERVIEW
MAIN MENU • CONTACT US • SUBMIT A MANUSCRIPT • INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Not logged in.

EM Version: 5.0



Welcome to Editorial Manager
for
Amphibia-Reptilia

Publication of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica

Amphibia-Reptilia is a leading European multi-disciplinary journal devoted to most of the aspects of herpetology: ecology, behaviour, evolution, conservation, physiology, morphology, paleontology, genetics, and systematics.

Amphibia-Reptilia publishes high quality original papers, short-notes, reviews, book reviews and news of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica ([SEH](#)).

Guidelines and Help Resources

- [Instructions for Authors](#)
- [System requirements](#)
- [Supported file formats](#)
- [Online Help](#)
- [Author Tutorial](#)
- [Reviewer Tutorial](#)
- [Journal homepage](#)
- [Adobe Reader](#)

What next:

Ending to set up Editorial Manager and launching it January 2008.

Project of having papers on-line as soon as proofs are corrected

Having all issues of Amphibia-Reptilia on-line

Broader advertising of Amphibia-Reptilia

Increasing the size of the two editorial boards (reviewers and Associate Editors)

As we would like to receive more papers, we would be glad if you choose Amphibia-Reptilia to publish your results.



Thank you

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