

SEH News

Editorial Report 2007

One hundred and thirty eight manuscripts have been submitted to *Amphibia-Reptilia* in 2007, i.e. an intermediate value between the records of 2005 (123 in 2005) and 2006 (156). The majority of manuscripts originated from Europe (64%) and North-America (19%), but submissions were also received from South America and Asia and to a smaller extent from Oceania, Central America, and Africa. Of these submissions, 58 manuscripts were accepted and 80 rejected. This means a rejection rate of 58%, i.e. a bit lower than in 2006 (63%), which reflects the submission of excellent works. Manuscripts that were not editorially rejected because they fell outside of the scope of the journal went through one to three revisions. As last year, the journal contained 600 pages. The issues of the journal have been published two months earlier than last year. This new procedure allows a fastest publication of papers, which was less than one year on average but also a fastest indexation. The ISI impact factor of the papers published in the journal in 2006 considerably increased to 0.795. This follows the positive trend of the last couple of years, and the highest increase in herpetological journals, confirming thus the progression of *Amphibia-Reptilia* to the top of the list. In 2007, the impact factor increased again in reaching the score of 0.929. Although Impact factors are not a perfect index, they reflect that more people are interested by our journal as they cite our papers more frequently. Proofs were provided to the authors very soon after acceptance, which should favour a fast communication of their work. For instance, manuscripts that do not need major revisions and for which authors resubmit directly their revisions, could be available, as proofs, only a few months after the first submission.

A new on-line submission procedure (<http://amre.edmgr.com>) has been built during 2007 with collaboration with Brill, our publisher, and Aries System, the company who distributes Editorial Manager. This professional software, which is used by other major journals, was customized to fit the style and work structure of *Amphibia-Reptilia* but also to be as convenient as possible for all users. It has a large number of advantages over the previous e-mail procedure: archiving of all material and meta-data associated with submissions (with restriction access depending on users), centralization of the submissions, pdf building of manuscripts for authors, acceptance of larger files, integrated list of reviewers and pre-formatted letters, report of late reviews and resubmissions, statistics on the submissions, easy workflow from submission to publication. In addition to the previous system, a preliminary request is now sent to reviewers to find out whether they would agree to give their comments on a manuscript. When reviewers do not accept or do not reply within 8 days, this allows the editors to send a reminder or to find more rapidly than before an alternate reviewer.

All this procedure is also expected to reduce time from submission to publication for papers submitted from 1 January 2008, date of the official launching. This will also prevent loss of material as everything remains on the website and can be checked by all parties. Indeed, e-mails do not always reach their destination (e.g. because of spam filters) but now each party can check the status and list of materials on the website through an access with ID and password.

Thanks also to Michiel Thijssen, Senior Acquisitions Editor in Brill, for posting on the Ingenta website (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/brill/amre>) all old issues of *Amphibia-Reptilia*, which have been scanned. There are thus currently 109 issues available on-line. These pdf reprints are provided with no additional charge to all SEH members (with journal) and subscribing institutions.

Finally, after a roundtable in Porto during the last SEH congress and after several important modifications, an official agreement, signed by our General Secretary (M.A.L. Zuffi), our President (N. Ananjeva) and M. Thijssen, has been concluded between Brill and SEH for the publication of *Amphibia-Reptilia*. This solves a long period of uncertainty between the publisher and the society.

We would like to thank our Associate Editors (R. Jehle, G.F. Ficetola, J. Lea, T. Madsen, and B. Schmidt) for their support to the co-editors (D.J. Harris, L. Luiselli, and M. Denoël). We are also particularly grateful to our internal and external reviewers for their very good job on the submitted manuscripts: U. Agrimi, J. Ahnesjo, G.C. Akani, G. Alexander, S. Andersson, F. Andreone, R. Avery, A. Bauer, M. Bologna, W. Boehme, P. Bombi, X. Bonnet, B. Borczyk, F. Brischoux, J.C. Brito, K. Buhlmann, M. Capula, S. Carranza, M.A. Carretero, C. Castellano, W. Cooper, C. Crumly, M. D'Amén, F. Della Rocca, C. Diaz Paniagua, F.J. Diego-Dasilla, V. Dickinson, E.A. Eniang, C. Erard, E. Filippi, D.C. Forester, S. Fornasiero, U. Fritz, J.W. Gibbons, M. Godfrey, R. Godinho, I. Gomez-Mestre, G. Graceva, R. Grant, E.H.C. Grant, D. Greenberg, A. Hailley, J. Hallermann, T. Hels, P. Jenkins, A. Kaliontzopoulou, G. Kuchling, J. Lea, P. Le Fras Mouton, O. Lourdais, A. Loy, T. Madsen, W. Magnusson, J. Maisano, B. Maritz, R. Marquez, M. Mazerolle, J. Measey, R. Nydam, M. Olsson, A. Oppliger, G. Orizaola, G. Orłowski, N. Pacini, P.B. Pearman, M. Penna, A. Perera, V. Pérez Mellado, A. Pernatta, C. Pinho, M. Plath, J. Pleguezuelos, K. Räsänen, L. Raw, C. Reading, A. Richter-Boix, S. Rocha, R. Rouag, J.J.L. Rowley, V.H.W. Rudolf, L. Rugiero, A. Russell, R. Sacchi, D. Salvi, S. Salvidio, M. Sanchez, X. Santos, P. Schlegel, R. Shine, U. Sinsch, S. Steinfartz, V. Stevens, C. Téplitsky, G. Thompson, M.L. Tobias, B.D. Todd, L. Tomovic, P. Tryjanowski, B. Ujivari, G. Velo-Anton, B. Viertel, L. Vignoli, R. Walker, S. Watling, C. Wanger, K.M. Warkentin, P. Weatherhead, D.J. Wilgers, M. Znari, G. Zug, and M.A.L. Zuffi. The reviewers are a key

point in the quality of a journal. Unfortunately, it becomes difficult to find external reviewers for all topics. This is indeed a time-consuming task, but which remain absolutely necessary for peer-reviewed journals that look for specialists of each field. We are all authors of manuscripts and thus cooperation is welcome. It is to be noted that after the communications of good reviews, reviewers can be invited to join the Advisory Editorial Board of the Society and thus take a more official role in the editorial process.

Mathieu Denoël
On behalf of the Co-Editors
of *Amphibia-Reptilia*
Liège, 23rd June 2008

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