

## SEH News

### Editorial Report 2003-2005 and acknowledgements of reviewers 2004: 13<sup>th</sup> OGM meeting, Bonn, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005

*Amphibia-Reptilia* has received a high number of submissions during the last few years: up to more than 150 in 2004 (mainly from Europe, South America and the U.S.A.). In starting this new editorial term after the 12<sup>th</sup> OGM, in August 2003, we had thus to face the problem of space limitations because in 2003, for instance, only 53 papers were published. Having already a huge backlog of more than 6 issues, even with our current rejection rate (around 65%), we would have kept unacceptable delays between submission and publication time. On the other hand, we would have lost interesting manuscripts for authors looking for fast publication service (what can partly explain the decrease in the submission rate in 2005 with compared to 2004). We then decided to improve the quality services of *Amphibia-Reptilia*. This is a step by step process and we are continuously applying new solutions. The recent changes do not only concern ways to save space but also many other points in connection with our journal.

In summary:

1. We obtained from Brill more published pages each year without price increase (600 in 2005 instead of 500 the previous years).
2. In 2005, we changed entirely the layout to a more modern presentation that allows more flexibility and space (two columns, smaller font).
3. We now publish each short-note on a separate page, so they can be presented and downloaded individually.
4. In 2005, we will publish 74 manuscripts.
5. We have more strongly focused the scope of the journal. Manuscripts that are too descriptive (except if innovative), including only species checklist, placing unconnected results together, really too repetitive with previous studies, dealing with captive breeding only, based on a small sample size or containing reports of work which appears to contravene accepted ethical standards are usually no longer accepted.
6. We now accept reviews on hot topics from specialists.
7. We have increased the advisory editorial board in welcoming ten new members. They were chosen among those of our reviewers who gave the most pertinent and constructive reviews.
8. We request reviews from herpetologists from all over the world (mainly Europe and the U.S.A), regardless of their SEH membership. For each manuscript, we try to have the best specialists, but although many agreed to support our journal, this is not always an easy task.
9. We started to launch electronic procedures in 2003. Now, manuscripts must be submitted by e-mail (MS Word for the text, pdf for the figures for the first submission). All correspondence between the authors, editors and reviewers is done by e-mail, which saves time, money and avoids mail losses.
10. We published new instructions to authors (both online and in the first printed issue of each year) which avoid losses of time for editors and reviewers. Although, during the last two years, we have sometimes accepted manuscripts that were not prepared in accordance to the instructions to authors, we now are strict in not considering anymore poorly prepared manuscripts.

With these different new procedures, we expect to attract higher quality papers in the next few years. In consequence of a rapid publication service (probably two issues in the backlog by mid 2006), we are now able to offer good services to authors that will see their paper in print faster and can thus cite it also faster. These two aspects are good in terms of impact factor and with an increasing impact factor, we will also get more high quality submissions and remain competitive among the ranked herp journals. Because we published many more papers in 2005 than in 2004 and 2003, we would like to ask you your patience in waiting for a rise of the impact factor of *Amphibia-Reptilia*. Indeed, impact factors are based on the number of citations of papers published the two years before the year considered and that with respect to the number of papers published on that year.

To improve additionally the quality of services of our journal, we have now founded an Associate Editorial Board for which we are going to welcome new members, we are going to speed up the process at the proof stage, we are preparing an updated version of the instructions to authors, and we are thinking of new on-line procedures, such as web submissions of manuscripts, and abstracts and/or papers published on-line before printing. We are now waiting with enthusiasm your new submissions.

We would like to thank the authors who supported *Amphibia-Reptilia* in submitting the results of their research, but also the reviewers without who we would have been unable to give valuable improvements for each paper. Hereunder there is a list of the 134 reviewers who acted on manuscripts submitted to *Amphibia-Reptilia* in 2004:

U. Agrini, G.C. Akani, F. Andreone, P. Abrunhosa, F.M. Angelici, E.N. Arnold, J. Austin, R.A. Avery, M. Babber, T.J.C. Beebee, L. Belden, C. Bevier, X. Bonnet, J. Bosch, W. Böhme, D. Bradshaw, J.C. Brito, R. Brizzi, D. Capizzi, M. Capula, S. Carranza, M.A. Carretero, J. Castanet, S. Castellano, W. Cooper, M. Crossland, J. Cubo, C. Cummins, P. Daszak, I. De la Riva, C. Diaz Paniagua, M. Delfino, S. Diamond, C. Eggert, E. Eniang, C. Erard, F. Ficetolla, E. Filippi, E. Font, T. Fretey, T. Friedl, P. Geniez, A.A. Giaretta,

J.W. Gibbons, M. Given, G. Gollmann, P. Gregory, T.R. Gregory, H. Greven, R.A. Griffiths, T. Groot, G. Grosman, A. Haasi, A. Hailey, C. Haddad, S.B. Hedges, R.W. Henderson, F. Hervant, W.R. Heyer, R. Hoffman, A. Holman, I. Ikeuchi, U. Jaeger, R. Jehle, A.I. Kehr, L. Kupriyanova, R.R.K. Lambert, T. Langilde, P. Le Fra Mouton, J.M. Lea, J.P. Lena, R. Lecis, D. Lesbarreres, R.A. Knapp, A. Kwet, P. Kyriakopoulou, B. Lanza, A. Larson, S.P. Lawler, A. Lima, L.B. Lourenço, W. Lowe, J. Lynch, T. Madsen, W.E. Magnusson, A. Malhotra, R. Marquez, J. Marshall, J. Martin, A. Mathis, C. Miaud, N. Mitchell, D.L. Murray, M. Ogiel-ska, P. Nystrom, G. Orizaola, A. Pagano, L. Palacios, O. Paulo, J. Perälä, V. Perez Mellado, C. Pinho, C.J. Reading, R. Rebelo, S.J. Richards, Z. Roček, L. Rugiero, S. Salvidio,

E. Sasso-Cerri, B. Schmidt, F. Sequeira, R.A. Seymour, R. Shine, U. Sinsch, G.R. Smith, S. Smyers, L.D. Spotila, A. Storfer, F. Suchentrunk, B.K. Sullivan, D. Tarkhnishvili, M. Tobias, L. Trueb, B. Ujjvari, F. Uwe, D. Vallan, M. Vences, P.A. Verrell, J. Watson, J. Wilkinson, P. Wood, W. Wuster, M.L. Zelditch, M. Zuffi.

Mathieu Denoël  
On behalf of the Co-Editors  
of *Amphibia-Reptilia*  
Liège, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2005

Co-Editors:

**Dr. Mathieu Denoël** (general biology and ecology of amphibians): FNRS Research Associate, Behavioral Biology Unit, University of Liège, Quai van Beneden 22, 4020 Liège, Belgium.

**Dr. Luca Luiselli** (general biology and eco-ethology of reptiles): via Olona 7, I-00198 Roma, Italy.

**Dr. D. James Harris** (genetics and systematics), Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos (CIBIO/UP), Campus Agrário de Vairão, PT-4484-661, Portugal.