Amphibia-Reptilia - 8 years on board: main changes and last figures

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16th European Congress of Herpetology
Ordinary General Meeting
Luxembourg, 27 September 2011

Amphibia-Reptilia has always been through changes. Here are highlighted the last ones since 2003. A step by step process…

Aims

- Speeding up publication process
- Continuing on selecting the best manuscripts
- Be open and proposing rather revisions over rejecting ms
- Improving services to authors, readers, and reviewers
- Increasing international coverage

2004: From snail mail (paper) to full electronic (email) submission

- More flexibility
- Cheaper
- Faster
- Safer

2004: Giving more weight to short notes (first step)

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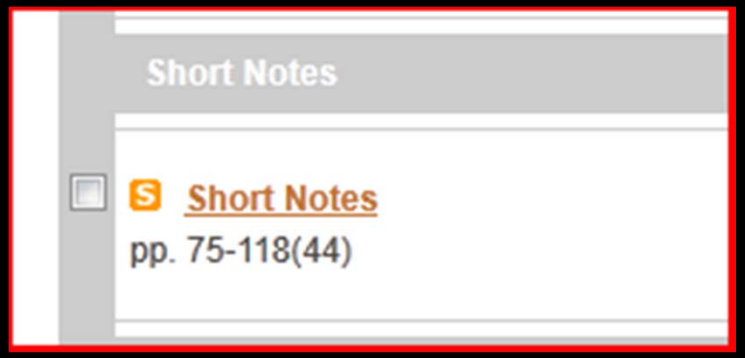
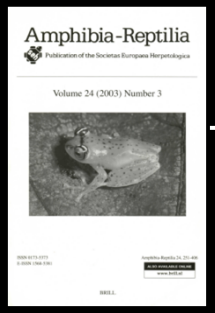
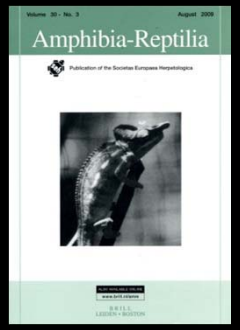
From grouped to individual presentation on Ingenta website



2005: From ± 500 to ± 600 pages / year + a slight page size increase





Amphibia-Reptilia 24: 509-514

Amphibia-Reptilia 26 (2005): 587-588

2005: From a single to a two-column layout

2003

Susceptibility of frog (*Rana temporaria*) and toad (*Bufo bufo*) eggs to invasion by *Saprolegnia*

Jim Robinson[1,2], Richard A. Griffiths[1,3], Peter Jeffries[2]

[1] The Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NS, UK
[2] Research School of Biosciences, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NJ, UK
[3] Corresponding author; e-mail: R.A.Griffiths@ukc.ac.uk

Abstract. Infections of amphibian eggs sometimes cause catastrophic losses of reproductive effort, but susceptibility to infection in different species is poorly understood. Using laboratory trials we showed that direct hyphal invasion of adjacent eggs by *Saprolegnia* caused a higher incidence of infection than invasion by zoospores. Moreover, we observed that dead eggs were much more readily colonized than live eggs when challenged with zoospores from two strains of *Saprolegnia*. The two strains were equally effective in causing infections of *Rana temporaria* eggs, but differed in their ability to infect eggs of *Bufo bufo*. In live *R. temporaria* eggs, early stages (pre-tailbud) were more frequently infected by hyphal invasion than later stages by the same strains, suggesting that susceptibility to infection decreases as development proceeds.

Introduction

Disease can play a key role in population dynamics, but it is only comparatively recently that the implications of this phenomenon for wildlife conservation have been appreciated (Anderson and May, 1986; May, 1988; Scott, 1988; Daszak et al., 2000). Although disease has been widely suggested as one possible cause of recent die-offs of amphibians in some parts of the world, its importance as a regulatory factor is controversial (e.g. Alford and Richards, 1997; Hero and Gillespie, 1997; Kiesecker and Blaustein, 1997; Kiesecker and Gillespie, 1997; Laurance et al., 1997). However, fungi and fungal-like organisms have been implicated as important pathogens of amphibians for several decades (e.g. Bragg, 1958; Beebee, 1977; Strijbosch, 1979), and chytrids have recently been identified as the probable cause of widespread frog die-offs in Australia, Central America and Spain (Berger et al., 1998; Daszak et al., 1999; Bosch et al., 2001). Although there is confusion concerning the taxonomy of fungi, the oomycetes are distinct from the chytrids, and have recently been classified within the Chromista (Kirk et al., 2001).

Amphibia-Reptilia 26 (2005): 231-238

2005

Distribution of mtDNA haplotypes (cyt *b*) of *Emys orbicularis* in France and implications for postglacial recolonization

Uwe Fritz[1], Antoine Cadi[2], Marc Cheylan[3], Christophe Coïc[4], Mathieu Détaint[4], Anthony Olivier[5], Elisabeth Rosecchi[5], Daniela Guicking[6], Peter Lenk[7], Ulrich Joger[8], Michael Wink[6]

Abstract. The European pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis*, is a wide ranging species, distributed from Northwest Africa over a large part of Europe and Asia Minor to the Caspian and Aral Seas. For 106 pond turtles from France mtDNA sequence variation has been assessed, using a 1031 bp portion of the mitochondrial cytochrome *b* gene. Three of nine haplotypes currently known from the entire species' range were found in France. One clade (II) is represented with four very similar haplotypes, differing by one mutation, and the two other clades (V, VI) are represented with one haplotype each. A syntopic occurrence of clades II and V is reported for the first time for the Camargue. Besides, clade II occurs in the French regions Aquitaine, Centre-Val de Loire, and Rhône-Alpes. Outside of France, it is found mainly in the catchment areas of the Danube and Oder rivers and in the Balkans. Haplotype V, which is also known from the Apennine peninsula, Sardinia, and the northern Mediterranean coast of Spain, is restricted in France to Corsica and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. A single individual bearing a haplotype of an Iberian and North African clade (VI) was found in Aquitaine near Pau. This could indicate gene flow between the Iberian peninsula and West France, if the specimen is native. The distribution of the distinct haplotypes in France probably reflects Holocene range expansions, especially of haplotype II turtles. In the postglacial, haplotype II terrapins arrived from the east and spread over the Rhône corridor to the Mediterranean coast. In the southern Rhône area they met and hybridized with haplotype V turtles. Further research is needed to clarify whether this hybridization is a locally restricted phenomenon.

Introduction

The distribution of the European pond turtle, *Emys orbicularis* (L., 1758), covers Northwest Africa north of the Atlas Mts., a fair part of Europe south of Scandinavia and Asia Minor and reaches eastwards to the Caspian and Aral Seas (Fritz, 2003). For decades, *E. orbicularis* was thought to be a textbook example of a wide ranging monotypic species (e.g., Boulenger, 1889; Wermuth and Mertens, 1961, 1977; Ernst and Barbour, 1989). However, recent research demonstrated that it is one of the most fragmented and structured reptile taxa of the western Palearctic. Currently, 13 morphologically distinctive subspecies are recognized, which largely correspond, as far as studied, with mtDNA lineages or haplotypes (review in Fritz, 2003). Our ongoing investigations of the mitochondrial phylogeography of *E. orbicularis* (Lenk et al., 1998, 1999; Fritz et al., in press) led to a considerable refinement of the understanding of the zoogeography of the species (Fritz, 2003). Until now only 31 specimens from six localities in France have been studied genetically (Bouches du Rhône: 1, Haute Corse: 2 specimens from 2 localities, Indre: 9, Rhône: 1, Var: 18; Lenk et al., 1999), although many French populations are currently monitored for ecological and morphological research (Sauret and Ri-

1 - Museum of Zoology (Museum für Tierkunde), Natural History State Collections Dresden, A. B. Meyer Building, Königsbrücker Landstr. 159, D-01109 Dresden, Germany
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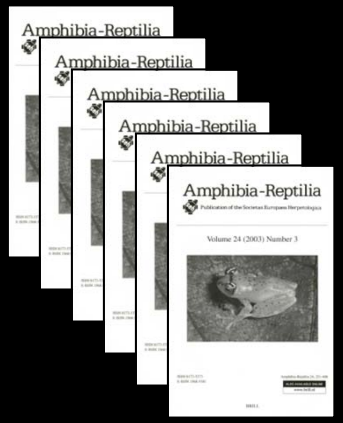
2 - Conservatoire Rhône-Alpes des Espaces Naturels, La Maison Forte, 2 rue des Vallières, F-69390 Vourles, France
3 - Laboratoire de Biogéographie et Ecologie des Vertébrés, Ecole Pratique des Hautes-Etudes, Place Eugène Bataillon, F-34060 Montpellier, France
4 - Cistude Nature, Moulin du Moulinat, Chemin du Moulinat, F-33185 Le Haillan, France
5 - Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, F-13200 Arles, France
6 - Institut für Pharmazie und Molekulare Biotechnologie (IPMB), Abt. Biologie, Universität Heidelberg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 364, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany
7 - Seestr. 6a, D-63796 Kahl am Main, Germany
8 - Staatliches Naturhistorisches Museum, Pockelsstr. 10, D-38106 Braunschweig, Germany

2005: Solving space lack

From around 6 to 2 issues in the backlog

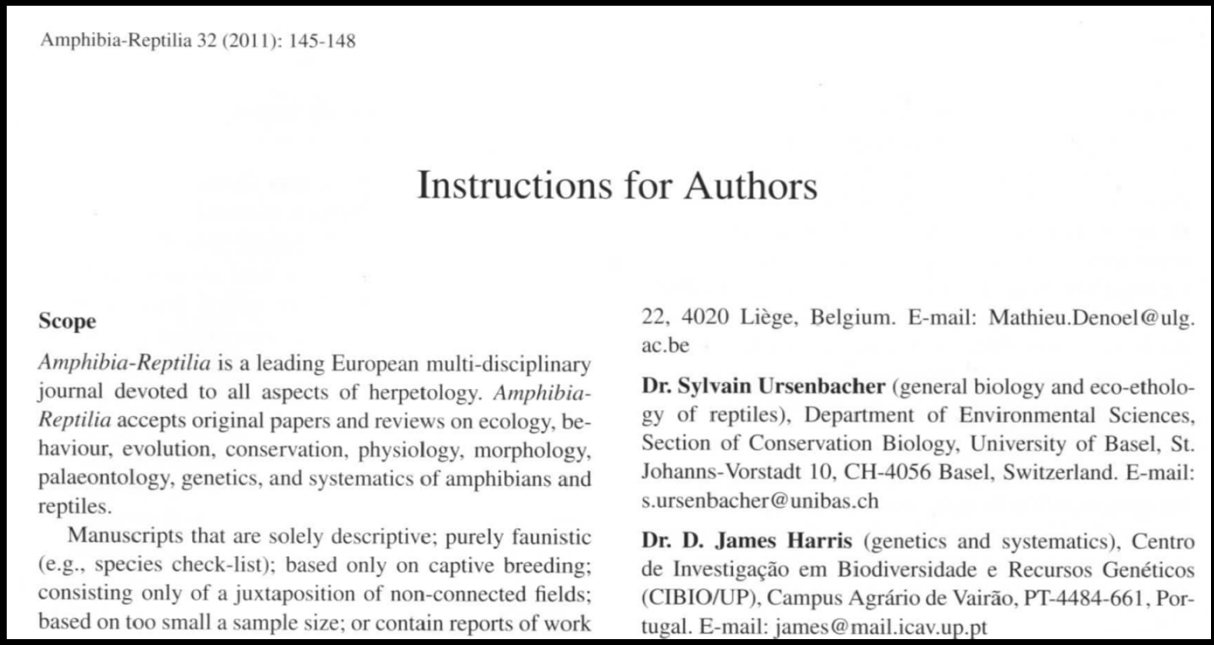
⟶ Fastest publication service, better indexing



2005: Detailling instructions to authors (+ updates each year, last one in 2011)

More details, more tips ⟶ better presented ms at first submission

A special focus for ethical concerns



Amphibia-Reptilia 32 (2011): 145-148

Instructions for Authors

Scope

Amphibia-Reptilia is a leading European multi-disciplinary journal devoted to all aspects of herpetology. *Amphibia-Reptilia* accepts original papers and reviews on ecology, behaviour, evolution, conservation, physiology, morphology, palaeontology, genetics, and systematics of amphibians and reptiles.

Manuscripts that are solely descriptive; purely faunistic (e.g., species check-list); based only on captive breeding; consisting only of a juxtaposition of non-connected fields; based on too small a sample size; or contain reports of work

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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. E-mail: james@mail.icav.up.pt

2006: Giving more weight to short-notes (second step)

Providing abstract as for articles

AFLPs: genetic markers for paternity studies in newts (*Triturus vulgaris*)

April Whitlock[1], Marc Sztatecsny[2], Robert Jehle[1]

DNA-based genetic markers can reveal paternity whenever the direct assignment of fathers to offspring is precluded by multiple matings and internal fertili
Microsatellites are
in many behaviour
important insights

AFLPs (Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphisms) are dominant genetic markers based on a technique which has been available since

Biogeography of *Neurergus strauchii barani* Öz, 1994 and *N. s. strauchii* (Steindachner, 1887) (Amphibia: Salamandridae) assessed using morphological and molecular data

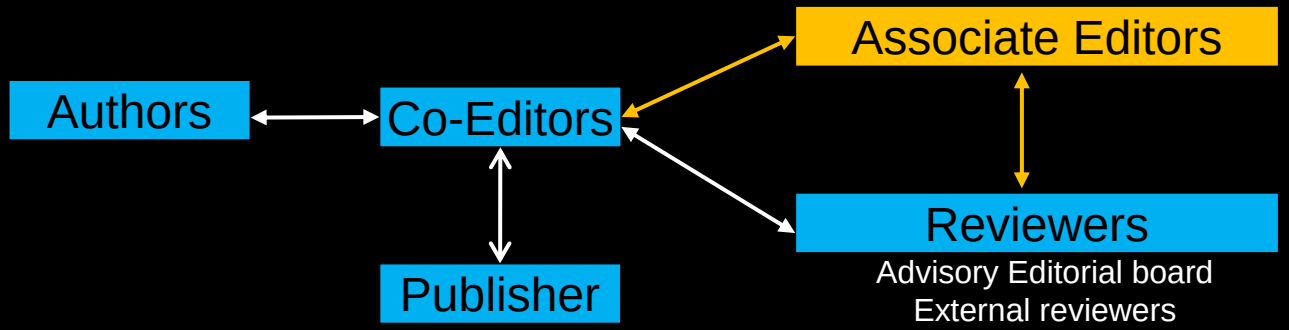
Frank Pasmans[1], Sergé Bogaerts[2], Tonnie Woeltjes[3], Salvador Carranza[4]

Abstract. Five new locations of *N. strauchii* are reported from Turkey, closing the gap between the two subspecies *N. s. barani* and *N. s. strauchii*. A molecular analysis based on 829 base pairs from two mitochondrial ribosomal genes (12S and 16S rRNA), together with geographical data from the area concerned, indicate all new populations found are very closely related to the mitochondrial sequences from specimens of *N. s. strauchii* from its type locality and suggest the river Euphrates might have acted as a natural barrier separating the only populations of *N. s. barani* known to date from all other populations of *N. s. strauchii*. A morphological analysis of all *N. strauchii* populations sampled for this study indicates that belly patterns

2007: Creating a board of Associate editors

More flexibility, fastest process, less workload/editor

Alternative work flow



First members: Robert Jehle (U.K.), Francesco Ficetola (Italy), Jerry Lea (U.K.), Thomas Madsen (Sweden), Benedikt Schmidt (Switzerland)

Then: 2009 – Marc J. Mazerolle (Canada), Caitlin R. Gabor (U.S.), Sebastian Steinfartz (Germany)
2010 – Ana Ivanovic (Serbia), J.C. Brito (Portugal)

2008: Launch of a professional online submission platform
Editorial manager

Amphibia-Reptilia

Editorial Manager

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Editorial Manager: All data in only one system
Fast process and efficient communication
between authors, reviewers, editors, and publisher

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- Direct-to-Editor Revised Submissions (0)
- New Assignments (0)
- Submissions with Required Reviews Complete (0)
- Submissions Requiring Additional Reviewers (0)
- Submissions with One or More Late Reviews (0)

Reviews in Progress (0)
- Reviewers Invited - No Response (0)
- Submissions Under Review (0)

Submissions out for Revision (10)
All Submissions with Editor's Decision (2)
All Submissions with Final Disposition:
Accept (186), Reject (244), Withdrawn (25)
My Assignments with Decision (8)
My Assignments with Final Disposition (165)

Action	Manuscript Number	Article Type	Article Title	Author Name	Initial Date Submitted	Status Date	Current Status	Editor Name	Final Disposition	Editor Decision
View Submission Details ✓ History File Inventory Edit Submission Publish Information View Reviews and Comments Google Scholar Title Search Scirus Title Search Scirus Author Google Scholar Author Search Send E-mail	AMRE-D-08-00006R2	Article	Interactions between freshwater mussels and newts - a novel form of parasitism?	Laura R Wood, M.Sc.	Jan 25, 2008	Apr 25, 2008	Completed Accept	Mathieu Denoël	Accept	Accept

2009: All issues of *Amphibia-Reptilia* are posted on-line
all available for SEH members and subscribers

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Amphibia-Reptilia

ISSN 0173-5373, Online ISSN: 1568-5381

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120 issues are available electronically

120 issues (1980 – 2011)

Volume 32
Number 3, 2011
Number 2, 2011
Number 1, 2011

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Volume 12
Number 4, 1991
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Number 4, 1987
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Number 2, 1987
Number 1, 1987
Volume 7
Number 4, 1986
Number 3, 1986
Number 2, 1986
Number 1, 1986
Volume 6
Number 4, 1985
Number 3, 1985
Number 2, 1985
Number 1, 1985

2009: Fastening indexing in Web of Science / Web of Knowledge

Papers are listed by ISI soon after on-line publication

WEB OF KNOWLEDGE℠

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1. Title: **Rapid search for genetic differentiation of populations: application to the European pond turtle**
Author(s): Girondot Marc; Servan Jean; Pieau Claude
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **32** Issue: **3** Pages: **297-304** DOI: **10.1163/017353711X571865** Published: **2011**
Times Cited: **0** (from Web of Science)
[View abstract]

2. Title: **Climatic effects on the reproductive biology of Caiman latirostris (Crocodylia: Alligatoridae)**
Author(s): Soledad Simoncini Melina; Ignacio Pina Carlos; Benjamin Cruz Felix; et al.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **32** Issue: **3** Pages: **305-314** DOI: **10.1163/017353711X571874** Published: **2011**
Times Cited: **0** (from Web of Science)
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3. Title: **Effects of habitat perturbation on the daily activity pattern and physiological stress of the spiny tailed iguana (Ctenosaura acanthura)**
Author(s): Alfonso Suarez-Dominguez Emilio; Eufrates Morales-Mavil Jorge; Chavira Roberto; et al.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **32** Issue: **3** Pages: **315-322** DOI: **10.1163/017353711X571883** Published: **2011**
Times Cited: **0** (from Web of Science)
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4. Title: **The superpopulation approach for estimating the population size of ' prolonged ' breeding amphibians: Examples from Europe**
Author(s): Wagner Norman; Pellet Jerome; Loetters Stefan; et al.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **32** Issue: **3** Pages: **323-332** DOI: **10.1163/017353711X579768** Published: **2011**
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Example from September 2011

2010: Fast track service in Ingenta

Posting accepted papers on-line before final publication in an issue

→ Time from submission to on-line publication could be very fast
(i.e. less than 6 months on average)

Are toad tadpoles unpalatable: evidence from the behaviour of a predatory dragonfly in South China
Author: *Nancy E. Karraker*
Appeared or available online: 7 juillet 2011

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Fast track

One of the advantages of Web-based publishing for authors and editors is the ability to publish individual articles as soon as they are ready, enabling research to be distributed in the information community before going through the full peer-review process, and reducing the risk of delay that may be caused by the print process. For the publisher, providing pre-print access to articles helps to raise the profile of both their publications and brand as researchers benefit from the very latest research in their field.

2011: Free colour option in pdfs

Colour still available in the paid mode for the printed version

Amphibia-Reptilia 31 (2010): 571-575

On the occurrence of facultative paedomorphosis in the three newt species of Southern Iberian Peninsula (Amphibia, Salamandridae)

Francisco Ceacero[1,*], David Donaire-Barroso[2], Enrique García-Muñoz[3], Juan Francisco Beltrán[4], Miguel Tejedo[5]

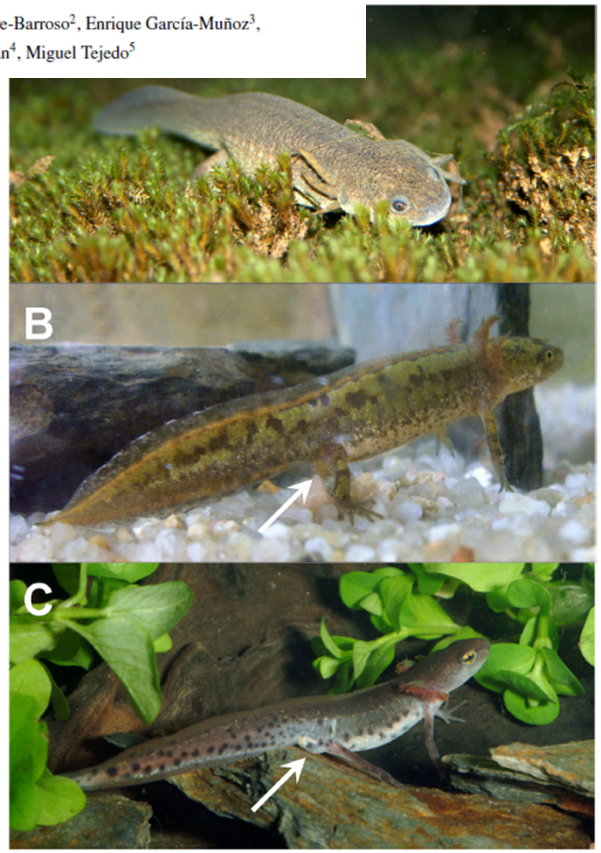

Figure 1. (A) *Pleurodeles waltl* paedomorph male from location #1. Note the adult colouration and the absence of dorsal crest (larval trait). (B) *Triturus pygmaeus* paedomorph male from location #3. Note the adult colouration and the swollen cloaca (white arrow). (C) *Lissotriton boscai* paedomorph male from location #4. Note the adult colouration and the swollen cloaca (white arrow).

Example from a printed issue

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More authors would post, more researchers would read and cite papers published in *Amphibia-Reptilia.*

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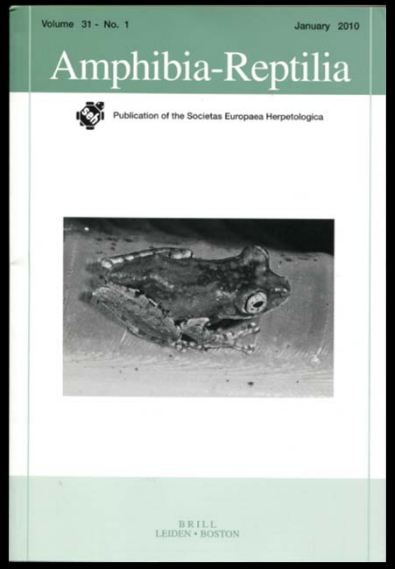
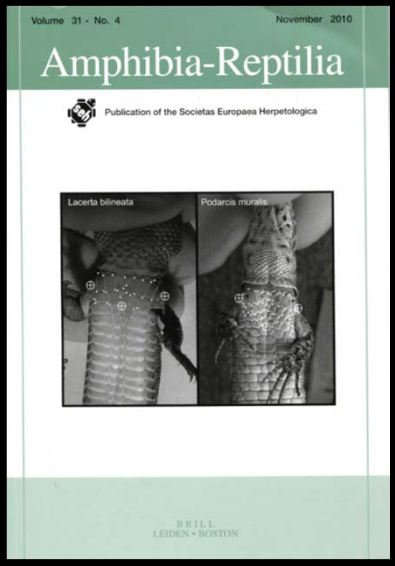
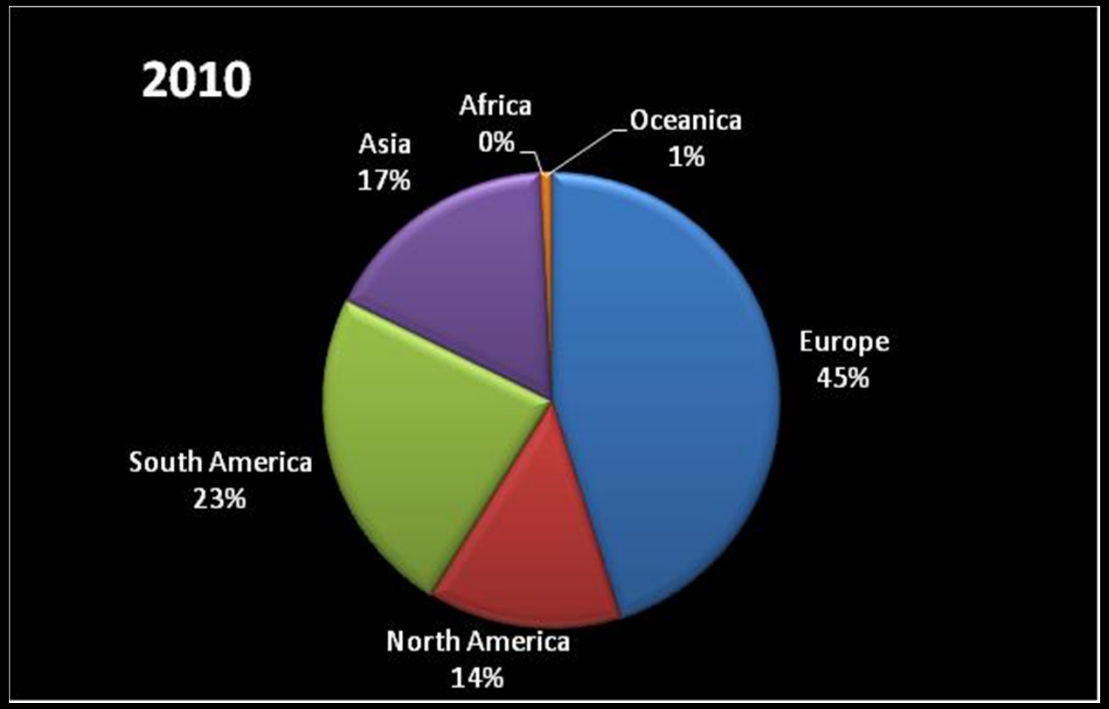
Amphibia-Reptilia
Focus on 2010





2010: 122 new submissions

Origin of corresponding author



34 countries

Top 5:
Argentina (13), U.S. (12),
Spain (11), Germany (7),
Portugal (6)

2010: Editorial process - speed

1. Editors

Mean time between

- submission and assignement: 3 days
- assignment and first reviewer contacted: 8 days
- assignment and first decision: 39 days
- assignment and final decision: 84 days

2. Reviewers

Mean number of days to review: 19 days

3. Authors

Mean time to revise manuscript,

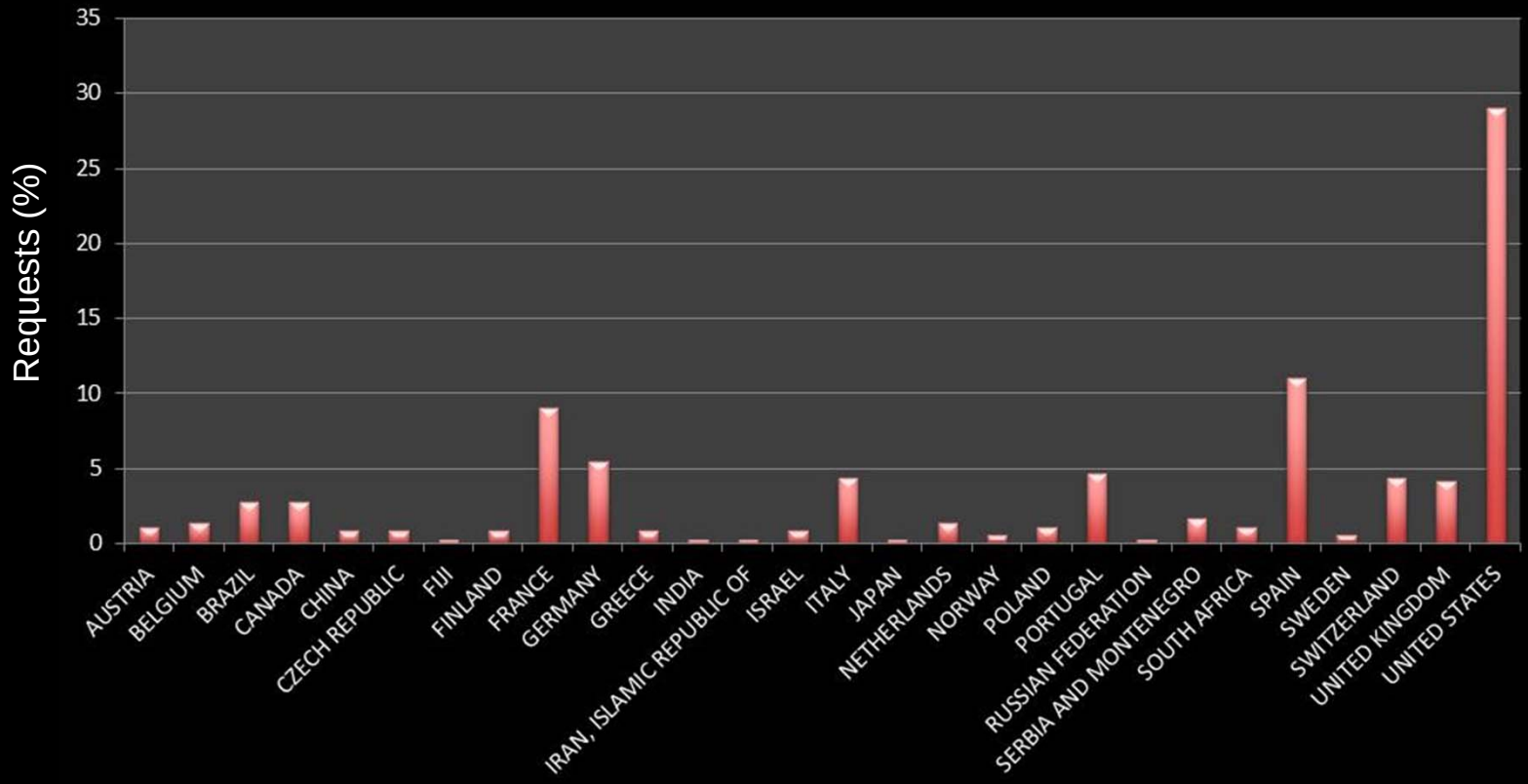
- first revision: 36 days
- subsequent revisions: 16 days

2010: Reviewers

365 requests to review manuscripts

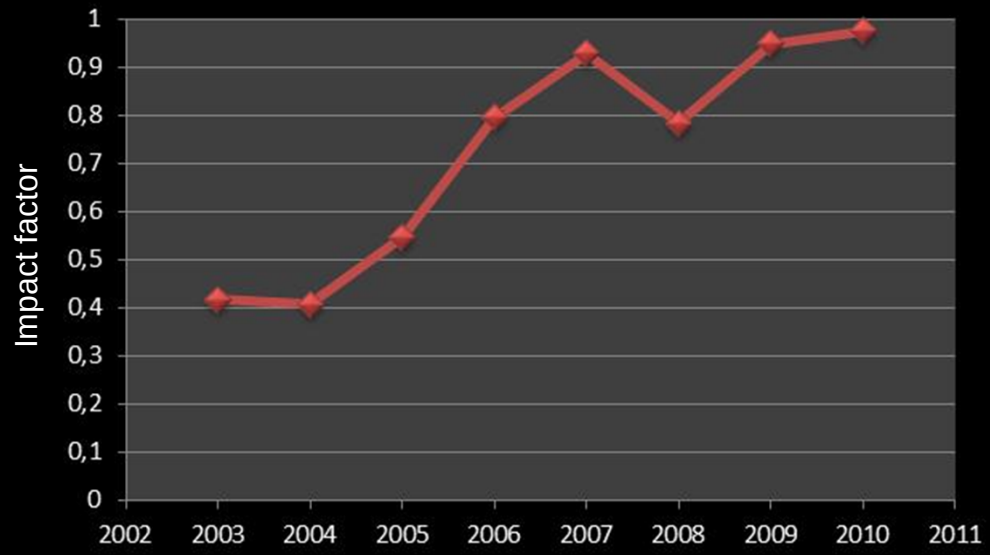
- 212 positive replies (58%)

Europe: 53%
North America: 29%



Finding reviewers is one of the most difficult tasks…
Increased interest for *Amphibia-Reptilia* among U.S. reviewers

2010: Impact factor (ISI) = 0.976



5 most cited papers:

WEB OF KNOWLEDGE℠

Title: **Improving data analysis in herpetology: using Akaike's Information Criterion (AIC) to assess the strength of biological hypotheses** review
Author(s): Mazerolle Marc J.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **27** Issue: **2** Pages: **169-180** DOI: **10.1163/156853806777239922** Published: **JUN 2006**
Times Cited: **43** (from Web of Science)
[View abstract]

Title: **Breeding activity patterns, reproductive modes, and habitat use by anurans (Amphibia) in a seasonal environment in the Pantanal, Brazil**
Author(s): Prado CPA; Uetanabaro M; Haddad CFB
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **26** Issue: **2** Pages: **211-221** DOI: **10.1163/1568538054253375** Published: **JUN 2005**
Times Cited: **38** (from Web of Science)
[View abstract]

Title: **Genetic variation in Tarentola mauritanica (Reptilia : Gekkonidae) across the Strait of Gibraltar derived from mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences**
Author(s): Harris DJ; Batista V; Carretero MA; et al.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **25** Issue: **4** Pages: **451-459** Published: **2004**
Times Cited: **26** (from Web of Science)

Title: **Phylogeny and evolution of the green lizards, Lacerta spp. (Squamata : Lacertidae) based on mitochondrial and nuclear DNA sequences**
Author(s): Godinho R; Crespo EG; Ferrand N; et al.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **26** Issue: **3** Pages: **271-285** DOI: **10.1163/156853805774408667** Published: **SEP 2005**
Times Cited: **25** (from Web of Science)
[View abstract]

Title: **Phenotypic plasticity leads to incongruence between morphology-based taxonomy and genetic differentiation in western Palaearctic tortoises (Testudo graeca complex; Testudines, Testudinidae)**
Author(s): Fritz Uwe; Hundsdoerfer Anna K.; Siroky Pavel; et al.
Source: AMPHIBIA-REPTILIA Volume: **28** Issue: **1** Pages: **97-121** DOI: **10.1163/156853807779799135** Published: **JAN 2007**
Times Cited: **25** (from Web of Science)
[View abstract]

From Reviewer to Co-Editor

SEH Statutes

§5.1: The Council consists of: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer, First Co-Editor, Second Co-Editor, Third Co-Editor.

§5.2: The members of the Council will be elected for a period of four years, or re-elected for a period of no more than a further four years for the same council position

→ Two of us, first elected in 2003, end their second term in 2011

External Reviewers → Internal Reviewers → Associate Editor → Co-Editor

→

constructive and fast review
broad interest in herpetology
implications into the society

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Much success to our successors