

## Editorial

### ***Insect Systematics & Evolution* welcomes the Year of Biodiversity**

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In 2009 *Insect Systematics & Evolution* received 50 new submissions and published 18 original papers on 409 pages. Most of these papers were multi-authored with a total of 44 authors, representing research institutes from 16 different countries on six continents. Most first authors' institutions were based in the USA (4), followed by Germany (3), Argentina (2), Australia (2), South Africa (2), Italy (1), Japan (1), Poland (1), Singapore (1) and the United Kingdom (1). Published contributions dealt with aspects on insect or arachnid systematics with emphasis on either taxonomy (11 papers) or on phylogenetic reconstructions (7 papers). The Editorial Board members have done an excellent job in selecting papers that were included in the review process and helping to find competent referees. A large proportion of rejected papers was already sorted out prior to the review process, which is time-saving for both authors and reviewers. I would like to express my sincere thanks to authors, referees, Editorial Board members and readers of *Insect Systematics & Evolution*, as well as to its publisher Michiel Thijssen and desk editor Marc Jarmuszewski at Brill. All of you have greatly contributed to the success of the journal.

I am pleased to welcome Dr Hojun Song (Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, USA) as new Editorial Board member. Dr Song will bring his expertise on molecular phylogenies and Orthoptera systematics to the board. From 2010 *Insect Systematics & Evolution* enables authors to publish multimedia files (e.g., audio, video) or large datasets as supplementary material along with an article. The files will be permanently posted on Brill's website and a link to the content will be placed in the respective article. *Insect Systematics & Evolution* will also benefit from Brill's open access option *Brill Open* which was introduced in November 2009. Soon, advanced online publication of individual articles will be in place. We will implement new guidelines into our instructions for authors regarding a new vouchering policy for specimens included in molecular analyses and we are also thinking about making the registry of new species names at *ZooBank* mandatory. From this volume (41, 2010) onwards our taxonomic range of covered groups is amended slightly. We will focus on insects and arachnids and no longer publish contributions on myriapods. These contributions have traditionally been scarcely represented in *Insect Systematics & Evolution* and we would recommend potential authors to consider the *International Journal of Myriapodology* (Brill/Pensoft)

for submission. Finally, we encourage authors to submit significant review articles dealing with progress on phylogenetic reconstructions within insect or arachnid groups at higher taxonomic levels, i.e., superfamily or order.

2010 is the United Nations' Year of Biodiversity. Roughly 1.8 million species of organisms have been described to date, which may represent less than 10% of the true species diversity. Arthropods comprise the largest proportion of described species and new methods are needed to speed up discovery and formal description of their hidden species diversity. Currently, we are witnessing an exciting process of *revolution*, or you may even call it *re-evolution* of taxonomy, in which morphology-based taxonomy is complemented — not replaced — by DNA taxonomy. Soon, taxonomy will have fully transformed into a multidisciplinary science that delimits species on the basis of molecular, morphological, phylogenetic and biological evidence. In this transformation process taxonomists should not ignore the true wealth of arthropod diversity: their overwhelming behavioural, biological and ecological diversity. It is hoped that this diversity will be more depicted and analyzed in systematic studies and that taxonomists take on their new role as biodiversity researchers. *Insect Systematics & Evolution* is looking forward to those submissions that reveal the diversity of insects and arachnids and help unravel their evolutionary history.

Lars Krogmann  
Editor-in-Chief  
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