

Some features of the editorial policy of *Plant Ecology and Evolution*, and welcoming new members of the editorial team

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Our journal comes from a long editorial tradition, beginning with the founding of the Royal Botanical Society of Belgium, which published from 1862 onwards its “Bulletins”. Since then, the journal has changed its title several times, to become *Plant Ecology and Evolution* in 2010. Last year marked the 150th anniversary of this publication, and efforts from the editorial team of the new title were rewarded by the attribution of its first provisional Impact Factor: 1.167 (Journal Citation Reports® 2011, Science Edition, Thomson Reuters 2012).

This encouraging result motivates us to improve the editorial process and to facilitate rapid publication of accepted papers. One way to do this is by rationalizing editorial production. We wish to keep the high editorial and technical quality that attracts authors, including our ‘no charges’ policy:

- no charges for submission and peer-review process;
- no charges for inclusion of colour illustrations whenever they enhance the scientific content of the papers;
- no charges for access to the electronic version of our issues (<http://www.plecevo.eu/contents.php>).

We enhance rapidity by pre-publishing online preliminary versions of the papers (FastTrack) as soon as proofs have been approved by authors. However, to avoid taxonomical issues and to stay in line with all requirements of the

International Code of Nomenclature, we decided to keep the print version of each issue as the basis for the ‘official’ publication date. All print publication dates of issues are given on our website (<http://www.plecevo.eu/contents.php>), as well as on the inside cover page of the following issue.

Willing to reduce our ecological footprint, we adopted a new reprints policy: for manuscripts submitted after July 2012, corresponding authors will no longer receive 25 reprints free of charge; they will still be able to purchase reprints at reasonable cost, and they will receive a free electronic copy (pdf format) of their paper. We thus encourage authors to disseminate their work among the scientific community using the electronic copy instead of paper reprints, or by giving the DOI link (digital object identifier), which can be found on the first page of the paper.

The need was also felt to reinforce the editorial team of the journal, in order to distribute the workload more evenly among our editors. In mid-2012, Dr. Catarina Rydin made us the honour to accept our invitation to become Associate Editor for *Plant Ecology and Evolution*. Her expertise in gymnosperms, phylogeny, palaeobotany, morphology and character evolution fills a gap in our team, and she conducted the editorial process of a substantial review on the origin and evolution of petals in angiosperms published in this issue (pages 5–25).



After a PhD in 2005 on fossils and phylogenies of the *Gnetales* at Stockholm University, **Dr. Catarina Rydin** did a post-doc with Peter K. Endress at the University of Zürich. Later she was assistant professor at Uppsala University for two years. Now she is Associate professor at Stockholm University.



Dr. Alexandra C. Ley got a PhD from the University of Mainz (Germany) in 2008 with a thesis on the evolution of African Marantaceae. After a two-years post-doc at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, she occupies since 2011 a research position at the Institut für Geobotanik und Botanischer Garten of the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Germany).



Dr. Nicolas Barbier obtained his PhD in agronomy and bioengineering in 2006 at the Université Libre de Bruxelles as an FNRS research fellow. The topic of his PhD memoir was the spatial interactions and self-organisation of semi-arid vegetation. During post-doctoral years in Oxford, Brussels and Montpellier, he started working on the ecology and structure of rainforests, with an emphasis on remote sensing approaches. He is now a staff member of the Institut pour la Recherche et le Développement in Montpellier (France) within UMR AMAP (Botanique et Bioinformatique de l'Architecture des Plantes).

Towards the end of 2012, invitations were sent to an evolutionary botanist and a plant ecologist, and both answered positively. Dr. Alexandra Ley and Dr. Nicolas Barbier will join the team of Associate Editors from this issue onwards. Dr. Ley will take care of submissions dealing with a wide array of topics from phylogeography and phylogeny to classical systematic studies. She will also put her experience with regard to floral morphology and pollination at the service of our journal. The expertise of Dr. Barbier on tropical vegetation ecology, remote sensing and modelling will be very appropriate to deal with submissions focusing on afrotropical ecology.

In the Editorial Board, an advisory organ, we had to regret the decease of Dr. Hans Preisig at the end of 2011 (see



Dr. Jiří Neustupa is Associate professor at Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Charles University of Prague, and his research interests range from taxonomy and phylogeny of green microalgae to geometric morphometrics and freshwater phytobenthos ecology.

issue 145(1): 138). Dr. Jiří Neustupa has accepted to fill the arisen phycological gap here.

We are grateful to Catarina Rydin for her first editorial work in 2012. We welcome Alexandra Ley, Nicolas Barbier and Jiří Neustupa in the editorial team. Their help to *Plant Ecology and Evolution* is much appreciated.

We would also like to acknowledge all referees that kindly helped us in the peer-review process throughout the years – their names are published yearly in the last issue. Their comments and suggestions on manuscripts are of the utmost importance for the excellence of our scholar publication. We cannot thank them enough for their great contribution, for without their help, we could not publish articles with a sound and high quality scientific content.