

EDITORIAL

The next 50 years

Dear Reader,

November 2005 saw a significant cornerstone in the history of the **Journal of Applied Entomology**, for the two editors-in-chief, reviewers, and authors alike. From this month onwards, the journal offers an online submission system for authors and reviewers. By implementing this new facility, we are confident that the journal's scientific impact will grow while easing the submission process for authors. The system, located on the web at <http://mc.manuscript-central.com/jappent>, enables authors to trace the progress of their manuscript through the review process and reviewers to access papers online for review. Within the last year we have been able to reduce substantially the time between manuscript submission and its final publication. The OnlineEarly feature further helps expedite the time in which the scientific public is able to access new information and ideas published in the **Journal of Applied Entomology**.

We would also like to point out changes made to the editorial board in spring last year. We are very pleased to have joined on a number of highly esteemed colleagues from different disciplines to serve as editorial board members and shoulder the work and responsibility for enhancing the reputation of this periodical.

Already these changes have been extraordinarily fruitful: It gives us great satisfaction to note that the Impact Factor of the journal has risen from 0.381 in 2003 to 0.608 in 2004, and the immediacy index from 0.027 to 0.134, clear evidence that the **Journal of Applied Entomology** has embarked on the right path. We very much appreciate the significant contribution made by all editorial board members and reviewers, and we hope that in the future this well established collaboration will continue.

Since the first issue of the **Journal of Applied Entomology** (formerly "Zeitschrift für angewandte Entomologie") appeared in 1914, this periodical has undergone considerable changes during its successful history. Founded by K. Escherich, who served as editor-in-chief until volume 32, Wilhelm Zwölfer assumed the helm from volumes 33 to 60, followed by Wolfgang Schwenke who edited the journal from volume 30 to 118. As of volume 119, Reinhard Schopf took over responsibility for editing the journal and was joined by Stefan Vidal in 2004 as co-editor in this task. As the field has evolved over time, the scope of

research covering both fundamental and applied entomological issues has substantially changed during the last 20 to 30 years. New disciplines, such as molecular studies on insect resistance, development, and interactions between other organisms and insects emerged relatively recently. Therefore we have broadened the scope of the journal to include these new research directions. As ecological concepts and hypotheses are basic to these research areas, we particularly welcome submissions reflecting these ideas.

In addition to original contributions, **Journal of Applied Entomology** publishes:

Short communications intended to present novel and interesting findings that are not yet supported by a broad empirical data set. The papers should be highly original and should stimulate future directions of hypotheses building and research avenues.

Advances in methodology presenting innovative research methodologies, thus helping to improve basic and applied research both in the laboratory and in the field.

Mini reviews that cover specific issues in insect ecology and management which have been especially innovative in recent years and should link and synthesize different aspects of related research disciplines to address major steps in the understanding of ecological functions of insects in the environment.

Perspectives discussing new ideas and research concepts with regard to insects and their ecological functions, and

Book reviews presenting an overview of recent publications in basic and applied entomology.

Finally, it is a pleasure for us to announce the Journal's association with the German Society for General and Applied Entomology (DGaaE, <http://www.dgaae.de/>), a national scientific body that includes more than 800 scientists working in different fields of entomology. We hope this collaboration will stimulate research and publishing for mutual benefit.

Stefan Vidal and Reinhard Schopf