

Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae 2005–2011: towards higher quality and better recognition of taxonomy

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In 2005, the journal *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* (= AEMNP) was resurrected after nearly a decade-long break with the aim to restore its reputation as a widely recognized scientific journal focused on insect taxonomy and related disciplines (see JELÍNEK 2005). After six years of hard work, the editorial board is now hoping that this original intention has been fulfilled and AEMNP has found its place among respected taxonomical journals devoted to entomology.

Let us shortly recapitulate the progress achieved in the last six years. Between 2005–2011, **14 volumes** (11 regular issues, two of them dedicated as festschrifts to eminent entomologists, Pavel Štys and Josef Jelínek, and 3 supplements) were published containing altogether **242 scientific papers** with a total length of 4,422 pages (rejection rate 14.4 %). We were honoured to publish contributions of **203 authors** coming from 38 countries of nearly all continents. Numerous nomenclatural acts were proposed in their papers, including **4 new family-group taxa** (e.g. the beetle family Cyclaxyridae, GIMMEL et al. 2009), **38 new genus-group taxa**, and **284 new species-group taxa**. While in 2005–2007 one regular issue of the journal was published each year, from 2008 on, two issues have appeared each year in a roughly biannual schedule (in June and December).

In 2005, AEMNP was re-established as a journal with quite a widely defined scope, accepting papers dealing with taxonomy, nomenclature, morphology, biology and phylogeny as well as catalogues and faunistic papers covering large areas. Now, six years of experience with running and editing the journal allow us now to specify the publication scope more precisely as follows: **AEMNP is publishing papers on (i) insect taxonomy, (ii) nomenclature, (iii) morphology of adult and immature stages and/or their biology with possible applications in taxonomy and phylogeny, (iv) phylogeny at least partly based on morphological characters, (v) catalogues applicable for further taxonomy and biodiversity studies, and (vi) general papers on methodology of insect taxonomy.** Papers using molecular methods as tools in taxonomic and phylogenetic research are welcome, but we strongly prefer synapomorphy-based phylogenies to molecular phylogenetics dealing with tree topologies only (see e.g. MOOI & GILL (2010) for a discussion on this topic). Regarding catalogues, we accept only critical synopses designed as user-friendly tools facilitating a further taxonomical research on particular taxa – see MARSHALL et al. (2011) and SHORT & FIKÁČEK (2011) to understand our preference. All papers published in AEMNP have to adhere strictly to the Code of the Zoological Nomenclature as well as to its major recommendations (e.g. on the deposition of name-bearing types in institutional collections) and the code of ethics (ICZN 1999). AEMNP is currently following the first five basic criteria for the evaluation of taxonomic papers suggested by VALDECASAS (2011): (i) Descriptions and diagnoses are in accordance with the relevant code of nomenclature. (ii) The description standard is adequate to the contemporary

practice in the corresponding clade. (iii) The journal has unbiased editor and referee systems. (iv) Any molecular or morphometric evidence (e.g. a phylogenetic tree based on molecular data, a phenogram, etc.) that supports a new classification is accompanied by an explanatory description and diagnosis of corresponding taxa that is in accordance with the relevant code of nomenclature. (v) New taxa hypotheses and a full revision work are accorded similar merit. On the other hand, we strongly reject the current practice of some journals which exclude important parts of the manuscripts (e.g. lists of material examined, data matrices used in phylogenetic analyses) from their printed versions and publish them in online attachments only (see e.g. OSBORN et al. 2009), a practice which can seriously endanger the value of the papers as long-term records of verifiable scientific hypotheses.

In the past two decades, the so-called taxonomic impediment was discussed thoroughly in many papers (e.g. EBACH et al. 2011). One of the most important impediments endangering taxonomy in competition with other biological disciplines is the near lack of core journals and an insufficient coverage by the Science Citation Index (SCI; KRELL 2000, 2002). As an example, KRELL (2000) counted that only 7 % of ca. 1,000 journals relevant in entomology and held in the library of the Natural History Museum, London, were covered by SCI and evaluated for their impact factor. In recent years, the number and publication capacity of taxonomic journals included in SCI have increased substantially, due to the effort of *Zootaxa*, *ZooKeys* and a few other journals (see e.g. ZHANG 2008, 2011), but still hardly one third of the total number of newly described insect species is published in SCI journals. In such situation, establishment of more high-quality taxonomic journals with impact factor is essential for survival and prestige of taxonomy as an essential discipline of biological sciences (cf. WILSON 2004). Feeling our responsibility in this sphere, AEMNP applied for an evaluation by Thomson Reuters and has been included in the Web of Science (WoS) since 2009. The final decision about the assignment of an impact factor to AEMNP is expected in June 2012.

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