
EDITORIAL

The *Bulletin of Entomological Research* is an international journal which has been published by the *International Institute of Entomology* (an institute of CAB INTERNATIONAL) for 83 years. Its consistent aim is publishing high quality applied entomological research to an international community, with special emphasis on the tropics. This broad remit is the feature of the journal and a recent user survey conducted by CAB INTERNATIONAL indicates that this policy is endorsed by the user community.

In 1990 Mike Wilson and myself were appointed co-editors. We gave the journal a face-lift, appointed an editorial board and selected an advisory board to represent our international remit. Mike resigned from the Institute in 1992, and I continued to develop the goals we had set, increasing scientific quality, decreasing turn-around time, introducing guest editorials, book reviews and more recently, review articles and short communications. In 1993, I also introduced a Supplement Series.

During my six years as Editor, the positive response to change has been overwhelming. The increase in copy and high standard of papers has enabled us to publish bi-monthly this year, thus decreasing turn-around time even further. Moreover, we moved to seventh in the Science Citation Index of entomology journals in 1993 with an impact factor of 1.016 and cited half life of 10. This success could not have been achieved without the backup of a loyal editorial team who have been more than willing to respond, often at a very short notice, to urgent copy deadlines. My past copy editors, Annette Greathead and Sheila Niedbala and now Hilary White, have provided valuable support. John Boorman has willingly given much of his spare time to set up tracking systems which he monitors on a weekly basis. Last but not least, John Badmin, my assistant editor, has taken on increasing editorial responsibility over the last two years, enabling me to return to research.

The *Bulletin* could not have sustained its scientific credibility without constant attention from the Editorial Board. Their unwavering loyalty to the journal, keeping the refereeing system moving and willingness to advise me over difficult editorial decisions is very much appreciated.

During my editorship, the world has seen rapid and important scientific and social changes to which the journal has responded with vigour. Burgeoning advances in biochemistry has given the *Bulletin* the opportunity to publish a number of bench-mark papers in the agricultural and medical fields. The paper, *DNA fingerprinting to study spatial and temporal distributions of an aphid, Schizaphis graminum (Homoptera: Aphididae)*, by Shufran *et al.*, (Vol. 81, 1991) is one example of the lead that the *Bulletin* has taken in agricultural research. An example in the medical field is the paper, *The use of random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis for studies of genetic variation in populations of the blowfly Lucilia sericata (Diptera: Calliphoridae) in southern England*, by Stevens & Wall (Vol. 85, 1995). Eastern Europe now has a more relaxed political infrastructure and authors are able to submit their papers to a wide range of international journals. I recall the first paper we received from the authors, Natochin *et al.*, from the Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and Biochemistry at St. Petersburg on *The effect of insecticide treatment and injection of sodium chloride and sucrose solutions on the water-salt homeostasis of lepidopterous larvae* (Vol. 82, 1992), and more recently, we published a paper by Vinogradova *et al.*, *Ecological and geographical variations in the siphonal index of Culex pipens larvae (Diptera: Culicidae)* from the Zoological Institute at St. Petersburg (Vol. 86, 1996).

Dwindling financial support in many countries has forced institutions to rely more heavily on joint international projects and funding. The *Bulletin* has seen a marked increase in the number of multi-authored papers with a number of participating institutes all contributing to common scientific objectives. A recent example, *The rise and fall of Anopheles arabiensis (Diptera: Culicidae) in a Tanzanian village* (Vol. 85, 1995) has nine authors from six institutions in four countries. Although this has given the editorial team more complicated procedural and management problems, rapid communication by fax and now e-mail, has made the life of an editor bearable. For example, last minute changes requested by an author from Africa are no longer insurmountable problems. The Internet has also led to more rapid and flexible means of publishing and in 1997 the *Bulletin* will become part of a new service using the World Wide Web. PestWeb will offer subscribers to the printed journal electronic access to articles via the Internet.

Consistent with all good editorial policies, editors must be aware of future scientific challenges and keep abreast of new scientific directions, policies and decisions. Editors must change regularly and with this in mind I will finish my editorial tenure at the end of 1996. The *Bulletin* will continue to be managed from the Institute, but we intend to expand the Editorial Board and appoint a new Editor who will be selected from another institution. New editorial changes will be in place for the 1997 February issue.

Annette K. Walker