
EDITORIAL

IJO 7(1) is a very special issue – it is the first one under WDA's own management. It may be that most WDA members were not aware of the fact that IJO, although being the official WDA organ, was owned by Backhuys Publishers. The dependence on a commercial publisher came to an end: WDA is now the publisher of its own journal. In this respect I consider the year 2004 as a milestone in the still-young history of our Journal.

We do not forget the initial situation, when my predecessor Henri Dumont created the journal under the nickname 'Pantala'. The contract between him and Wil Peters of Backhuys Publishers was a guarantee for the quick establishment of the journal. Also my work significantly benefited from Wil and his special interest in the journal.

Nevertheless, WDA always intended to publish its official organ independently. The benefits of such independent publication include: better control of layout and format; more flexibility with regard to number of pages per issue, annual print-run, and dates of publication; and, last but not least, by the exclusive responsibility for expense budgeting and prize policy. Now this is reality. Wil Peters agreed with the termination of the contract under fair conditions. And WDA member Bernd Kunz was ready to take over all duties that are needed to transform an accepted manuscript to the printed version. Bernd is not only an enthusiastic dragonfly lover but also a professional graphic and layout designer.

Do you like the new style of IJO? It certainly was not an easy job for Bernd to find an optimal compromise between contemporary ideas of an attractive journal design and the need to maintain a format appropriate for a scientific journal, while at the same time not changing the existing design too much. In the new format all submitted graphics and tables will generally be re-designed to achieve a consistent style. All illustrations will be printed in the highest possible quality. The text is set with two new typefaces. So every printed page will un-mistakably and consistently reflect the new style of IJO.

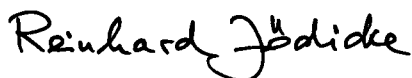
The cover photograph will be different for each issue. I am therefore continuously interested in good photographs – a chance for all odonatologists and photographers to take an active part in creating the face of the journal. A suitable photograph does not necessarily have to refer to the contents of the issue; other criteria of eligibility are the documentation of special behaviour or the rarity or the particular beauty of species. Top quality is an essential prerequisite. I will try to ensure that odonates from all continents are represented in turn.

It was an interesting and mainly satisfying experience to edit IJO in the last three years. During this time I received a lot of assistance, and I would like to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to all supporting persons. Each member of the Editorial Board (2001-2003) was actively engaged in the reviewing process and invested a lot of time in supervising the scientific quality of the journal. This also applies to all external reviewers. It is my general policy to look for the most suitable referees, so the list of these individuals is rather long: you will find the names of some of them in the new Board (2004-2006). Other external referees were Klaas-Douwe Dijkstra, Rosser Garrison, Holger Hunger, Bernd Kunz, Klaus Guido Leipelt, Günther Peters, Klaus Reinhardt, Klaus Sternberg and Hansruedi Wildermuth. Rob Arnold and Peter Mill, as well as several members of the Editorial Board, improved the English of authors who speak a foreign language. Whenever there was a problem with the correct formation of a scientific name, I consulted Heinrich Fliedner, our expert on etymology.

I also thank Eva Sacher, a graphic designer from my circle of friends. When I had produced 'my' first issue of IJO, I proudly showed it to her. She was not impressed; rather, she was amused by its old-fashioned design, and gave several suggestions for its improvement. Her criticisms set the ball rolling: now we have a new design, and I hope that even Eva will like it.

Finally I appeal to all odonatologists to submit their best manuscripts to IJO – we all have to work together to continually improve the quality and reputation of our journal.

Westerstede, 8 February 2004



Editor, International Journal of Odonatology