
EDITORIAL

I was delighted to accept the invitation to become Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* when asked a few months ago. It is an international entomology journal that I, along with many others, hold in high regard for its broad vision of entomological matters as they affect man in all corners of the world. This breadth of vision has been achieved through the energies of previous editors. I wish to pay particular tribute to my predecessor, Annette Walker, who through her great energy over seven years has made a large impact on the *Bulletin* resulting in an increased number of high quality papers being submitted, which in 1996 enabled CAB INTERNATIONAL to publish the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* bimonthly rather than quarterly. The submission of manuscripts continues apace which shows that entomology still thrives despite the continued reduction in research funding that is so prevalent in many countries. The ability to handle this large flow of manuscripts is dependent on the loyal support of the Editorial Board together with the Executive Editor, John Badmin, who ensure the smooth handling and reviewing of manuscripts. In addition, the staff at CABI, lead by David Nicholson as Publishing Editor, ensure that each issue appears when it should. I would finally like to acknowledge the many anonymous referees that spend considerable time reviewing the manuscripts. It is these unsung heroes that are responsible for making sure that standards of the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* are maintained and raised. I look forward to working closely with all these people during my term as Editor-in-Chief.

As we enter the final years of the millennium, we live in an age swamped by information. Our ability to contribute to this body of knowledge depends partly on our ability to synthesize what is being provided. The internet enables us to access many electronic sources of information from our desks and it now plays an important role in our acquisition of knowledge. However, we need to be sure of the quality of the information we receive. In January 1997 we see the introduction of PEST CABWeb whereby the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* will be available directly on the internet. This will increase the availability of the research findings but the high standards of the science published through this medium will be assured through the continued high quality of refereeing and editing.

I believe these are exciting times for entomology in all parts of the world for a number of reasons. Firstly, changes in international politics have opened many national borders to scientists so they may do their research, or collaborate with others, in countries that may have been inaccessible to them previously. By the same token, scientists have greater freedom than ever before to submit the results of their research for publication in the most appropriate journal anywhere in the world. Secondly, the agencies that fund research have for some years been demanding a multidisciplinary approach to solving problems. This has meant that we as entomologists now explain our science more clearly to scientists from other disciplines to ensure that the entomology is given sufficient priority. The corollary of that is that the close association with scientists from other disciplines has enabled us as entomologists to think in new and wider directions. Thirdly, and perhaps most excitingly, has been the development of techniques in biochemistry and molecular biology, frequently developed in the medical or plant sciences, that are now being applied to entomology. The challenge now is to apply these techniques to answer important questions in entomology, and not just show that the methods can be used on insects. Many of these questions have been asked in the past but the techniques were not available to answer them, but similarly an understanding of the techniques and how they apply to whole organisms and populations opens up a whole new spectrum of questions, the answers to which will help our understanding of insects and their interaction with the life of man. I look forward to receiving papers that address all these opportunities during the period that I am Editor-in-Chief.

Mark Tatchell

1997 International Course on the Biology and Identification of Insects and Mites of Importance to Mankind

International Institute of
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31 July – 17 September 1997,
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