

EDITORIAL

It has almost two years since I took over as the managing editor of *The Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* (RBZ) from Darren Yeo in January 2005. As such this editorial is long overdue! Meanwhile, the Bulletin had undergone considerable change.

My main job when I took over as managing editor was to transform the Bulletin into an online journal in order to rationalise spiralling costs, deal with the increasing number of manuscript submissions as well as reach out to a wider audience. It has been a roller-coaster ride in exploring, overhauling and morphing the Bulletin into an online version. It has been to me, an immensely satisfying and full-filling experience. Now, after two years, the RBZ is now an online journal. All published papers in the regular issues of the Bulletin are available for downloading by anyone with internet access free-of-charge. This is in line with our policy of disseminating scientific information to as wide an audience as possible. Although the PDFs of published papers are available for free downloading, we still need to print a small number of hard-copies as to satisfy Article 8 of the 1999 International Code of Zoological Nomenclature to satisfy the minimal criteria of publication. This is to ensure that all new names published in the RBZ are considered to be published and available. To this effect, hardcopies of the RBZ has been deposited in the following institutions since the RBZ went online in 2005: Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago); U. S. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington D. C.); Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (Panama); Australian Museum (Sydney); Centrale du Muséum National d'Historie Naturelle, Bibliotheque (Paris); Museo Civico di Storia Naturale (Milano); Library Naturalis (Leiden); Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science (Beijing); University of San Carlos (Cebu); National Parks Board, Singapore, and National Library Board, Singapore.

The RBZ's impact factor had risen from 0.362 in 2004 to 0.422 in 2005. This is a heartening developing and is no doubt the achievement of the former managing editor, Darren Yeo, who had spent a lot of time to improve this Bulletin and the results are now beginning to show. This has to be credited to the team of editors and referees who has taken upon themselves the often thankless task of editing and refereeing manuscripts. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Rudolf Meier, Tan Heok Hui and Peter Todd on board the editorial team as Associate Editors. Rudolf will be overseeing all insects and phylogenetic manuscripts, Heok Hui will be in-charge of all fish, amphibian and reptiles manuscripts, whereas Peter Todd will be managing manuscripts on marine invertebrates. I would also like to thank Darren for agreeing to stay on the editorial board as Associate Editor for Crustacea. Thanks are due to Navjot and Daiqin in continuing in their capacity as Associate Editors for birds and mammals, and spiders, respectively.

Lastly, my appreciation goes out to the Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editors, Publications Editor, Administrative Editor, Editorial Board members, referees for all their hard work and help with the growth of the Bulletin. The best is yet to be.

Tan Swee Hee
Managing Editor
Raffles Bulletin of Zoology