



A peer-reviewed open-access journal

ZooKeys

Launched to accelerate biodiversity research

Dear Editors,

We are taking the occasion of publishing the second issue of ZooKeys (www.pensoftonline.net/zookeys) to send this first round message to the Editorial Team of ZooKeys. There are several bits of good news and some ideas we would like to share with you, however at first we would like to THANK YOU for your support, encouragement and trust in our exciting publishing initiative!

During the first two months of existence (our Opening Editorial Paper was published on 4th of July), ZooKeys published two issues, and the third one is scheduled for the week of 8th-15th of September. Several of you have already seen the printed, full-color, nicely designed version of the first issue. We shall start sending out sample copies of the first issues to all, so that you can see it, show to colleagues, or hopefully recommend a subscription to your Institutional Library.

ZooKeys was presented at the International Congress of Entomology in Durban, the International Congress of Zoology in Paris and the European Congress of Arachnology in Bern. There are several other international conferences this year where ZooKeys will be present, either at the booth of Pensoft or through Powerpoint presentations. We do have a short presentation, which can be used by anyone of you, perhaps with slight changes to address the respective conference and society and adding your co-authorship. The presentation can be downloaded from www.pensoftonline.net/ZooKeys-Presentation.ppt.

ZooKeys became a CrossRef member and the papers are universally accessible through the DOI number, so that anyone can read and copy them free from the journal's website. The first issue and application for ISI listing was sent to Thomson Reuters. The journal will be indexed in Zoological Record and we plan by the end of 2008 to index/deposit the contents in most relevant indexing and repository organizations of the world, starting with PubMedCentral and others. We passed the testing phase of XML submission of all new species descriptions to Encyclopedia of Life on the day of publication and now we are in a process of negotiations to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with them. We are also in contact with a similar initiative with Catalogue of Life and plazi.org (www.plazi.org/) and they showed a great interest to our proposals. ZooKeys takes the obligation to register all new taxa and nomenclatural acts in ZooBank, on behalf of its authors. In addition, ZooKeys will be at the front of implementing of all new initiatives coming from the last meeting of the ICZN Commission in Paris, few days ago.

ZooKeys seems to have become quickly popular and enjoys several hundreds of visits per day on average, with records of over 2000 visits on several days. We do not doubt that you will use every possibility to promote and recommend ZooKeys to your colleagues, too. Therefore, we send attached our press release, which can be used as a short explanation of the philosophy and scope of the journal.

A major initiative of ZooKeys is to publish special issues on virtually each major taxonomic group, either taxonomically or regionally orientated. An example is the present special issue on Canadian Coleoptera. Special issues are already in process of collection of papers on Noctuoidea of North America and Scorpionida. I would like to invite you to consider any possibility to do that in the taxonomic group you cover - being it either conference or workshop proceedings, or just initiative within a society/group of taxonomists. Such special issues will quickly attract the attention to the journal of all specialists working on a particular taxonomic group. You shouldn't worry about payment of open access fees when offering special issues. We are flexible in offering discounts/waivers. Not that we shall refuse some financial support, however our main goal now is to make ZooKeys quickly No 1 in the world in terms of quality and speed of publication!

From technical point of view, the role of the subject editors in ZooKeys does not differ much from that in most journals. Manuscript must be submitted through our online editorial system, then we assign the submission to the respective editor and notify him/her on that. Then all correspondence of the Editor with referees and authors can be maintained either through the online editorial system (some editors do like it, some not!) OR through the usual way using attached files. Manuscripts may also be (pre-) submitted to the Editors as well and we shall take care then to upload them on the system. We keep track on the manuscript flow at our Editorial Office hoping in this way to avoid any feeling of overload to our Editors!

It is a pleasure to publish such a journal. The greatest pleasure, however, is to publish valuable papers, which anyone on Earth can read and disseminate with no barriers to access! Believe us, it is worthy to work on that!

Please do not hesitate to send us your comments, ideas or proposals as well as to ask us if you have questions related to ZooKeys.

Very best regards,

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