

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of BzB in 2010. The journal has been subject to major recent changes, including title and scope, editor, boards, cover design, and free availability of all contributions (open access).

The title “Bonner zoologische Beiträge” changed to “Bonn zoological Bulletin”. This follows the fact that the journal’s contributions, like elsewhere in biological sciences, are nowadays nearly exclusively published in English. The new title shall also contribute to increasing the journal’s publicity while keeping the well-known acronym “BzB”. The journal focuses now explicitly on three fields, sharpening its traditional profile as a museum journal: (1) taxonomy, (2) systematics and evolution, and (3) biodiversity and biogeography, all with respect to terrestrial animals (including fresh or brackish waters).

Publication in BzB continues to be free of charge, including colour figures, open access, retention of full rights with the authors, and production of a widely distributed print version. Manuscripts will be published online ahead of print directly after acceptance, allowing immediate public access to the latest contents. The BzB webpage (see interior cover for address) is still under revision, but contains already all published issues back to 1993. Our goal for the near future is to make the contents of all past volumes available online. In summary, the concept of BzB will guarantee fast and easy availability of the published contents.

Some of the editorial responsibilities changed include the editor-in-chief and the boards. Michael (“Theo”) Schmitt, responsible for BzB since 2003, left Museum Koenig for Greifswald University last year. Likewise, the boards have been subject to some rearrangement. On behalf of the “BzB-team”, I thank Theo and the former editorial and advisory board members for their invaluable engagement. Theo will however stay with BzB as a member of the Advisory Board. A warm “welcome on Board” to those colleagues joining or staying with the advisory or editorial team of Bonn zoological Bulletin, I am looking forwards to working with you.

Despite of the changes outlined above, the journal will retain its core strengths as a museum journal. The board members cover a wide array of expertise in zoology, and share common interests related to the journal’s focus. I am convinced that this is a sound basis for the journal’s future, building on the history of “Bonner zoologische Beiträge” since 1950.

Contributions published in the present issue of BzB reflect a wide array of approaches and methods applied in organismal zoology. Besides a checklist and contributions dealing with morphology, autecology or host-parasite interaction, the contents of the present issue include formal descriptions of six species new to science, including a chameleon, a gecko, a killifish (see front cover), two new species of moths, and a new fossil aquatic dance fly from Baltic amber. Taxonomic papers like these contribute to the exploration of our planet’s still only partly known biota, and are increasingly not in the focus of interest of many present zoological journals. Publishing sound taxonomic work remains a core task for museum journals like BzB.

Finally, some words regarding cover design and text format. In 2003, the BzB front cover was changed from completely yellow to the design known until 2009 when the journal switched to a larger format. At this time, the additional cover space was contrasted in light grey. The present design by Uwe Vaartjes takes the next step, replacing the yellow colour completely by grey and neutral elements, and incorporates Regina Lützenkirchen’s idea of including Bonn’s heraldic animal, the “King (Koenig in German) of Animals”. I am grateful to both for their work. Some readers and authors will have to get used to the more simplified literature style, which is a substantial reduction of the workload in production for both, authors and editors. I hope that the current revision of BzB in terms of both, focus and style, will meet the approval of the journal’s audience.

With best wishes to all readers, authors and “BzB-Team” members,



Fabian Herder (Editor-in-Chief; Fish Curator at ZFMK)

Bonn, April 2010