

Editorial

On occasion of his 66th birthday and his retirement from his position as curator of herpetology after nearly 40 years at the Museum Alexander Koenig, I had the great pleasure to be the editor of a Festschrift, and the co-ordinator of a colloquium honouring the work of Wolfgang Böhme.

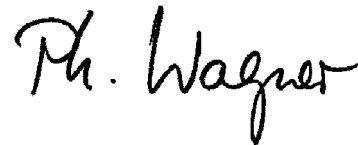
The title of this special issue of the Bonn zoological Bulletin and the colloquium is a combination of *Herpetologia*, referring to several symposia (e.g. the two SEH meetings) he organized during his time at this institute, and *Koenigiana*, referring to 'his' museum.

During his time at curator from 1971 onwards, he increased the at this time 'sleeping' herpetological collection with less than 9500 specimens to one of the leading collections in Germany and Europe with about 100.000 vouchers. His scientific work is documented in more than 530 publications and with his enthusiasm he influenced and stimulated 32 PhD (ten more candidates are still working on their theses), 145 diploma and 35 state-examen students, some of them working today as scientists in renowned German and European institutions.

As his student, I was influenced since my first time at the University of Bonn and the Museum Koenig by his courses and lectures and he positively forced my decision to work with herpetological systematics and the Afrotropical region.

These influences Wolfgang Böhme had on many upcoming scientists and his numerous cooperations are in part reflected by the impressive set of articles about various topics published in the present issue of Bonn zoological Bulletin, written by friends, colleagues and former students. These articles are partly dealing with his main scientific fields of interests: Africa, chameleons, or monitor lizards, but also with 'side'-fields like lacertids, nomenclature or the history of herpetology. Many articles are first descriptions of new amphibian and reptile species named after Wolfgang Böhme, which are the 'living manifestations' of his impressive work. Moreover, the two non-herpetological articles show that he has also some impact in other zoological disciplines.

As guest editor, I would like to thank all the reviewers for their helpful comments. Without their fast work it would not have been possible to have this issue ready right in time. Especially, I would like to thank Brian Sinclair who did the English in review in some of the articles.



Philipp Wagner (Guest Editor)

Bonn, November 2010

