

BRAUERIA 40

Lunz, March 2013

Dear Trichopterologist,

We are living in a period in which profit dominates everything. Anything else is unimportant. Countries are talked into taking credit which they will never be able to pay back, and have to pay forever the interest so that they will never be able to develop a minimal infrastructure. Even states in Europe are suffering from unemployment, reduction of salaries, schools without heating, hospitals with no medicines. Even medical care for elderly people is cancelled. We know it from the daily news. The only purpose of all of this is to fill the pockets of anonymous profit hyenas.

Even the modest entomologists have been affected. There is no big business with us, but even small livestock produces manure. High impact journals are asking astronomical page charges, and they tell us that a publication is worth more if it is published in a high impact journal (no matter what the real scientific value of the paper is). If this page charge is paid by a University or Museum, it is taxpayers' money. However, the libraries have then to pay for these journals at an unreasonably high cost, once more at taxpayers' expense. Publishers are using every dirty trick to increase the impact factors, and authors try to accommodate themselves. Did you realise that already the average number of authors per paper has increased from two to three during the few last years? I have been informed that mathematicians have now ignored the impact factors. Zoologists should be encouraged to follow. It is enough.

The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has now decided, despite the protest of thousands of scientific workers, that online-only publication is acceptable for taxonomic papers. This means that big companies may now save the printing cost for the paper edition and make more profit. It is well known that the Commission has been for long under pressure from these "empires" (and possibly is already part of one of these). The Zoological Record which has supplied basic information over generations for the zoological community has already been swallowed. I have now got a bill of 1117 Euro only for the minor part „General Insecta & Smaller Orders" It is enough now.

We, the modest trichopterists, cannot prevent this process. But we can boycott the sharks by:

Not publishing in journals with exaggerate page charges.

Not publishing in online-only journals.

Not publishing in journals with exaggerate fees.

Not purchasing such journals.

Not refering to papers in such journals.

That is easy for all of us, and not a big loss for trichopterology. Most of our relevant papers on taxonomy or bionomics were published in reasonable journals at any time.

It may be more difficult to establish a Free Nomenclatorial Commission, and to abandon the existing Commission with its Code. Has someone got a good idea about this ?? Someone who is not under pressure „from the above" ?

By the way. There is a discussion on whether or not the name of our Trichoptera Proceedings should be changed into „recent advances" etc. Changing the title of a well-known series is justified only if its topic is enlarged or reduced or otherwise shifted. This is not so. Our Proceedings have included for 37 years, a mixture of various aspects of work on caddisflies and will continue the same in the future. Changing the title of a well-known series or journal always means confusion in libraries and references. Moreover, the proposed title „recent advances" means nothing and could well be used for any scientific journal in the world. What else should be published in a journal except new information (= recent advances) ? The only real reason for changing the title, as far as I can see, is that the publisher hopes to sell more copies. See above...

With best wishes,



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Autor(en)/Author(s): Malicky Hans

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