

Editorial

The present issue of the Bonn zoological Bulletin contains some quite comprehensive contributions. In the first two papers, Volker Assing studies the taxonomy of Himalayan rove beetles, including a revision of the genus *Lathrobi-um*. In this paper, Assing recognizes 48 species of these small staphylinids between Kashmir and West Bengal, including 32 species new to science. This work sheds light on the value of taxonomic work for recognizing diversity in small insects, and the conspicuous correlation between species richness and collection activity highlights the importance of assessments and field explorations in remote areas. A total of 297 figures, a summarizing catalogue and an extensive key help making the results accessible. In his second paper in the present issue, Assing likewise focuses on staphylinid beetles in the Himalaya, here on the genus *Trisunius* in Nepal. He provides the first record of the genus for the country and adds the description of three new species, again including a key and distribution maps.

Mark Auliya and co-authors also contribute to the exploration of the fauna of a remote area. Their annotated check-list of the herpetofauna of the Bijagós archipelago (Guinea-Bissau, West Africa) provides several new records, and their check-list of the herpetofauna of the whole country of Guinea-Bissau sets a baseline for the recognition of anuran and reptile diversity in the area.

Two additional publications also come from the field of herpetology. Herbert Rösler et al. examined allopatric *Gekko vittatus* populations from Pacific islands that show distinct colour patterns, argue that one of these constitutes a new species, and formally describe a new taxon. Philipp Wagner et al. contribute an overview on expeditions and resulting collections of his namesake Moritz Wagner, an

important German explorer of the 19th century. M. Wagner's collections contain substantial amounts of amphibians and reptiles, including type material; much of the material has recently been transferred to the collection of Museum Koenig. The present paper is the first one in a series of contributions summarizing the knowledge on M. Wagner's material, and provides a commented list of specimens valuable especially to museum curators and taxonomists. The portrait of an important new viper species collected by him and dedicated to him by two Swedish colleagues in 1984, also in BzB, constitutes the front cover image of this issue.

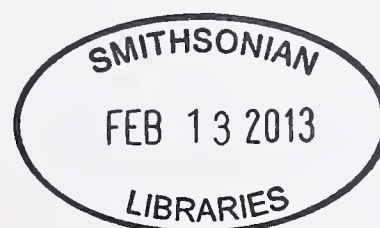
As usual, all pdfs are online free of charge at www.zoologicalbulletin.de. Migration of the archive to the new website is nearly completed – thanks to Sebastian Hüllen for his efforts!

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Till Töpfer as new board member. Till Töpfer is ornithologist with special interest in evolutionary avian biology and systematics. In his studies, he combines collection-based morphological approaches with molecular and geographic analyses. He has recently joined the ZFMK team as curator for ornithology. A warm “welcome on board”!

With best wishes for the New Year to all readers, authors, referees and “BzB-team” members,



Fabian Herder (Editor-in-Chief, Fish Curator at ZFMK)
Bonn, December 2012



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