

Braueria 48

Lunz, April 2021

Dear Trichopterologist,

The past year has presented a surprise named Coronavirus, exactly 100 years after the last worldwide epidemic. Nobody except the countries in SE Asia (which had already some experience with SARS years ago) was prepared for the new situation, and the experts of all countries were learning day after day how to handle the situation. But millions of „experts“ appeared who know everything better and cause heavy additional problems. The situation will remain long. Nobody can know how long the worldwide restrictions will remain and how many millions of people will die in addition to the current 3 million.

So we could do nothing else other than to postpone our Trichoptera Symposium which was planned for September this year to an unknown time. Information will be found under www.trichoptera2021.at.

This number 48 of Braueria includes six pages with literature references. I am not satisfied with this. We have increasing difficulties to obtain our relevant information on publications. About the Zoological Record I had already written in number 43 of Braueria in 2016. During many years I exchanged the reference lists with Andy Nimmo who had known additional sources. Several sources of information on the internet are now empty or have disappeared. The best information were the copies (or reprints which have meanwhile almost disappeared) sent by fellow scientists. But there are now more problems. From many of these copies one cannot see the correct reference. One does not know whether the paper was already published or is only a preliminary copy or a correction proof, and whether it is a publication which fulfils the requirements of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Names of journals are changing. The Mitteilungen der Schweizerischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft is now called Alpine Entomology. Other journals simply disappear without trace (see also <https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.11933>).

Originally a scientific publication was written to inform colleagues about new findings. Nowadays the papers are often used as an achievement matter for the authorities. In many universities and other institutions one needs a prescribed number of publications per year, and one has to publish in prescribed journals. What is written in the paper is not so important as these authorities don't read them. Therefore all thinkable tricks are used to publish papers. From the news we learned that more than 100.000 papers on coronavirus were published last year. How many of them were really read?

Stay healthy, and please come to our Symposium to Lunz which will be held – sometime...

Yours



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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Braueria](#)

Jahr/Year: 2021

Band/Volume: [48](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): diverse

Artikel/Article: [Vorwort 3](#)