

Editorial

After 20 years, *Nota lepidopterologica* deserved a facelift. Therefore, we are proud to present you a brand new layout from this issue on. Over the past two years, I have aimed at keeping up with publication schedule: in 1997, I again had to proceed by publishing double issues, including a couple of own papers — especially in Vol. 20(3/4)! Some papers have awaited publication for more than three years: the present issue includes the last of these “old” manuscripts. This unfortunate state of affairs has been the result of long delays caused by my predecessor, as well as the taking over of editorship of this journal under quite difficult circumstances. At present, this is past history and the manuscripts I still have to publish yet at the moment are far less than one year old. For the future, I take the solemn engagement at publishing any accepted paper within a normal delay of one year, or eighteen months at the very most.

The editing of the *Proceedings* of the Lednice (1994) and Madrid (1996) congresses remain the entire responsibility of Steven E. Whitebread. At the time of writing this, they are still not in print. At the last SEL Council Meeting, Steven stated that he aimed at getting them out by the next congress. From the next congress (Malle) on, we step down from editing separate proceedings. Papers resulting from lectures presented at congresses will be published in *Nota*, with a footnote stating “Lecture presented at ...”. Steven remains the responsible Editor of the separate “*Index of publications on European Lepidoptera*” (formerly “*Bibliographia Europaea*”).

For the future, we have the pleasure to announce to our members and readership that we will substantially increase the amount of colour plates in *Nota lepidopterologica*. These will be entirely free of charge for authors who are also SEL members and of about 50% of the costs for non-members. The numbers of colour plates we will include will, of course, depend on the number of appropriate manuscripts we receive, the justification

of a colour illustration in any particular case and — last but not least — on the financial possibilities of SEL.

Although we have still enough manuscripts for the next issue, this is not the case at present to fill even the whole of Vol. 21. I therefore wish to demand expressly on any potential author not to hesitate to send his manuscript right away to the Editor. The future success of our journal largely depends on a regular flow of (good) contributions. Our readers will have noted that *Nota lepidopterologica* has published one paper dealing with a Neotropical species last year. This will certainly not become a general policy although, when really considered of great interest, a publication dealing with non-Palaeartic Lepidoptera can be accepted on occasion: this will, however, only apply to papers submitted by SEL members.

I would like to draw attention to the new instructions for authors, that are included on the inside back cover and to highlight here expressly two practical points: please send any paper on PC diskette (not Macintosh), together with a printed version in triplicate and please do not send any registered mail! The Belgian post works quite efficiently and you will save the Editor a lot of unnecessary trouble.

I especially wish to appeal to lepidopterists from the French-speaking community, who have largely remained, quite strikingly and regrettably, absent from the scene, to consider *Nota lepidopterologica* as a likely choice for publishing their papers. Over the last two years I have consistently tried — as far as manuscripts available to me permitted so — to present to our readers a series of issues including not only taxonomic papers about “Rhopalocera”, “Heterocera” and “Micro’s”, but also dealing with quite different topics as ecology, biology, population dynamics, faunistics and conservation, in a proportion as balanced as possible for each. This trend is intended to be continued in the future, as far as the type of manuscripts received will allow so.

From now on, I will try to keep up with a regular publication schedule, i.e. *Nota* becoming again a quarterly journal. The present issue appears quite early, some weeks in advance of our SEL Congress at Malle (Belgium) to be held on March 22–26 this year. Any suggestions from anybody — before, during or after the Congress — will be gratefully acknowledged.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my team of Assistant Editors, and in particular Dr. Yuri P. Nekrutenko who provided a new page layout and compiled new instructions for the authors in order to make *Nota* more “reader (and author) friendly”. I hope our membership and readers will like the result.

Alain OLIVIER

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