

## Editorial

In September 2001 SEL celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inaugural foundation, which took place at the Zoological Research Institute and Museum Alexander Koenig in Bonn (Germany). With the current issue we now also present the first pages of the 24<sup>th</sup> volume of SEL's scientific journal, *Nota lepidopterologica*, to our members and readers. This issue reflects the remarkable achievements of the past 25 years. *Nota* has become established as the only scientific periodical specifically devoted to the study of Lepidoptera that really has a Pan-European membership base and audience. Other societies and their journals have largely retained a narrower regional focus. A particular characteristic of *Nota*, moreover, reflects the special blend of SEL membership. From its very beginning SEL has aimed at bringing together expertise from amateur and professional lepidopterists alike, and the lively mixture of papers being published in *Nota* gives testimony that this basic philosophy is still valid and fruitful. Thanks to the services and efforts provided by the preceding editors, Otakar Kudrna (vol. 1/1977-3/1980), Emmanuel Bros de Puechredon (4/1981-13/1990, with suppl. 1/1989), Steven E. Whitebread (14/1991-18/1995-96, with suppl. 2/1991, 3+4/1992, 5/1994), and Alain Olivier (19/1996-23/2000), as well as by all others involved in the daily work required to produce a journal on schedule, *Nota* today is now well appreciated in the community of lepidopterists worldwide, but is also recognized at a much broader scale. This is exemplified by the regular coverage of *Nota* in global information services like the Zoological Record, BIOSIS, or else.

On the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> congress of lepidopterology held at Białowieża (Poland) in 2000, SEL council and general assembly elected one of us (KF) as new Editor-in-Chief for *Nota*, while MN was nominated as Assistant Editor. A rearrangement of editorship was necessary since our predecessor, Alain Olivier, had indicated to resign from editorship with the completion of *Nota*'s vol. 23. We herewith heartily express our deep gratitude to A. Olivier for all his achievements during five years of service. By taking over our new responsibilities we also felt the time has come for a few changes and refinements in editorial policy of *Nota*. First of all, division of editorial tasks has turned out to be helpful to facilitate the regular production of *Nota* at the high standards our readership is expecting, while at the same time editorial work must be done in the editors' limited spare time. We have agreed, after intensive consultations with SEL council, that the Editor-in-Chief is mainly concerned with the handling of manuscripts from submission through review up to final acceptance for publication, while the Assistant Editor is largely responsible for all issues relevant to the printing and publication process.

For all authors of papers this means that manuscripts should primarily be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief who then sends out all papers for review by at least two independent experts. After receiving their statements the editor will decide whether a paper will be accepted for publication in *Nota* and whether a revision of the manuscript will be required. Once a paper is formally accepted for publication, the manuscript is passed to the Assistant Editor who arranges formatting and preparation for print, communi-

cates with the printers, passes correction proofs to authors, and finally gives the printing order. During all these stages the editors receive assistance from members of the Editorial Board (presently: Dr. Enrique García-Barros, Dr. Peter Huemer, Ole Karsholt, Dr. Yuri P. Nekrutenko, Dr. Erik van Nieukerken, Dr. Alexander Pelzer) who provide reviews of manuscripts, help with formatting of papers, or write book reviews or other supplementary material for publication in *Nota*. Moreover, manuscripts are frequently sent to reviewers outside the board to maintain high standards in the quality of accepted papers. We deeply thank all colleagues who have so far spent time and efforts for the service they have done to us and, thereby, to SEL membership at large.

Secondly, as you will immediately notice with the issue you just hold in your hands, we have polished the appearance of *Nota* in its printed form. While retaining the size of the journal, we have developed a new page layout which more effectively uses the printing space available. This new layout allows about 35% more information to be publicized on the same amount of paper as compared to the previous volumes – an important progress in times of steadily rising costs for printing and postage of *Nota*.

Thirdly, we have compiled a new edition of the instructions for authors. These are published at the end of this issue as well as on the SEL homepage (<http://www.zmuc.dk/EntoWeb/SEL/SEL.htm>) in full, and may also be obtained from the editors upon request. Important new aspects in these instructions are concerned with modified citations of references as well as with the opportunity, in our era of electronic communication and information processing, to submit papers in electronic form. Provided that authors strictly keep to these instructions (in particular with regard to file formats), electronic processing of manuscripts from submission onwards does not only speed up the process of handling a manuscript, but also spares a lot of mailing costs since materials can be sent cost-effectively via e-mail to reviewers as well as between the editors. The future may also see the world wide web being more explicitly used for publication purposes. We firmly believe that printed publications are essential in science, since of all currently used media only printed journals and books have the durability of centuries required to ensure that current knowledge will be held available for future generations. Nevertheless, given the financial constraints any non-profit society like SEL is permanently facing, electronic publication of supplementary material (such as raw data lists, additional figures, colour versions of illustrations that cannot be printed in colour for reasons of costs) on the SEL homepage may become an attractive opportunity. We are open to any requests and suggestions from our membership and readers. Finally, concerning the contents of *Nota*, we would like to note that this always depends on the fruitful interplay between contributing authors and editors. In line with the by-laws of SEL and the commission of SEL council *Nota* will continue to be the journal for SEL members to promote all aspects of the serious study of Lepidoptera. As a European society we seek for contributions which are not only relevant at small regional scales. Moreover, each journal issue should preferably cover a range of topics and taxonomic groups, so as to provide material of interest to as large a fraction of members as possible. Therefore, lengthy type catalogues or lists of sampled specimens without further evaluation of their significance to the readership will usually no longer be published in *Nota*. On the other hand, *Short Communications* will be introduced as

a regular means of publicizing new findings of European-wide interest, be this important extensions of the documented range of species, remarkable new hostplant records, rearing reports, or other relevant material.

Editors may only be able to edit what they receive as submitted manuscripts. We hereby invite all our members and readers, amateurs and professionals alike, to submit their contributions for publication in *Nota*. Papers on 'Microlepidoptera', from eastern European countries or about topics thus far underrepresented in our journal (e.g. conservation and ecology) are most welcome, as are contributions to any other topic in the study of Lepidoptera. *Nota* also continues to publish papers in all three official SEL languages (French and German apart from English). Yet, readers complaining about an apparent lack of contributions on their preferred topic, or in their preferred language, are kindly asked whether they would be able to actively improve any imbalance *Nota* admittedly still shows by just compiling their observations in manuscript form. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation and correspondence, and we hope our efforts in further improving appearance, layout and quality of *Nota* may stimulate a larger fraction of our readership to contribute to our joint goal: the advancement of the study of Lepidoptera.

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