

## EDITORIAL

*Dear Reader!*

The journal *Stapfia* has been published by the Biology Center of the Upper Austrian State Museum since 1977. While at the beginning mainly monographic works were published, since 1994 and from volume 32 on, scientific catalogs of the exhibitions of the Biology Center with predominantly botanical content have been included in the journal series. In the course of restructuring the Biology Center's publications in 2010, the journal series were more thematically focused, so that all botanically oriented publications have been assigned to the journal series *Stapfia*. At that time also the new subseries *Stapfia:reports* was launched. Apart from monographic works still being published as individual volumes of *Stapfia*, this new subseries is dedicated to the publication of research contributions from all major fields of plant science. This was a major step in meeting our readers expectations.

To serve the scientific community at its best, priority has always been on publishing articles of highest scientific quality, and to give our authors and their valuable publications high national and international impact and visibility. Both goals are achieved by the advise of our Editorial Board and numerous reviewers and our literature exchange program with more than 100 institutional partners worldwide.

Nevertheless, new times also bring new challenges to meet the changing needs of our scientific readership. More and more online accessibility of journals and electronic dissemination of articles is preferred by many authors and readers. We are proud to inform you that all 112 volumes of *Stapfia* back to the first issue from 1977 are freely accessible via our online portal *Zobodat* ([https://www.zobodat.at/publikation\\_series.php?id=1](https://www.zobodat.at/publikation_series.php?id=1)). With our commitment to open access we are convinced that knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society. In this respect we fully support all issues specified in the *Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities* of 22 October 2003 (<https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>). Likewise, by accepting current guidelines for open access publications, we guarantee integrity of author's digital contributions and their long term availability to the scholarly community. It is very important to us to meet the expectations of our readers, so we are constantly working on the improvement of our online presentation. Further steps to be realized are the distribution of our publications to additional scientific repositories and the implementation of online first publication, which will allow authors to have their articles already fully citable published online before they appear in a regular issue of our journals.

With regard to establishing priority, such electronic preprints, in particular, offer various advantages over submitting a manuscript to a print only journal. In this way we intend to avoid priority problems that may arise during the delay between the time when a manuscript is accepted for publication and the time, when a journal issue is published. We strongly believe that this new service will help our authors to get the best possible impact for their research.

At this point I would also like to thank our authors most sincerely for their continued submission of manuscripts. Without your contributions our journal would not be what it is - a publication medium of high academic reputation that is distributed to many important libraries worldwide and is available electronically through various library services free of charge. I would also like to thank the Editorial Board and the numerous reviewers who put their valuable time in the service of science and who do important work to maintain the quality of the contributions submitted. Last but not least, I would also like to thank our readers for filling our publications with life through their continued interest. Through your support over the decades, we will continue to run our journals with the greatest possible commitment and care despite of cost pressure and austerity measures!

We wish our readers continued interest and enjoyment in reading our journals!

*M. Pfosser and the Editorial Board of Stapfia*



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