

EDITORIAL

Welcome to volume 61, issue 2 of 2013, last of the regular issues and the start of an exciting era. This present volume is the largest regular issue we have ever done, with 33 papers, comprising of 24 papers in the Taxonomy and Systematics section, and 9 papers in Ecology and Conservation section. A total of 36 new taxa are made available from this issue.

Looking back over the decades, the practice of regular issues was closely associated with paper hardcopy prints. From 1928 to 1960 as the *Bulletin of the Raffles Museum*, 1961 to 1970 as the *Bulletin of the National Museum*, most issues were annual but with some missing years. When the journal was revived as the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* from 1988 to present, the publication was issued out twice yearly (except in 1994, where a single brave attempt was made for quarterly issues). The physical size of the publication had also been changed from a B5 paper format to A4 paper format (in 2000, volume 48), chiefly to accommodate more papers. The scope of the journal has also changed from its inception. In the earlier years (1928 to 1970), most papers were regional or within British colonial territories. In its modern era (1988 to present), the emphasis has always been Southeast Asian geographic scope, except for a brief period where the scope was enlarged to Asia; but this was quickly back to Southeast Asia due to overwhelming response. The current geographic scope is still Southeast Asian, with topical areas covering taxonomy, systematics, conservation and ecology of insular fauna. A new facet in 2014 will include invasive fauna.

As of 2014, the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* will be going fully electronic and no longer be published in just two numbers a year. It will now adopt a continuous style of publication. Simultaneously, the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* will start using ZooBank, the official portal for the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature, for registering new taxon which is published completely electronically. The journal will continue to have two main categories of publication, i.e., Taxonomy and Systematics, and Conservation and Ecology. A third category will also be revived—Perspectives—but this will be by invitation only. The continuous style of publication will mean only a single volume published annually from 2014, and will have a sequential page series with manuscripts published as and when ready. The date of the electronic publication will be the date the publication goes on the web. Hardcopy reprints will still be available for ordering. The format of the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* will also be tweaked to make it more streamlined, and hopefully make it more user-friendly.

The ISI is currently 0.752 (2012), less than last year but still encouraging. This is also my third year of helming the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* and it has been an arduous but rewarding task. This could not be possible without huge inputs from authors, reviewers, Associate Editors (Rudolf Meier, Peter Todd, Darren Yeo, Tran Anh Duc, Tohru Naruse, Kevin Conway, Zeehan Jaafar, Li Daiqin, Tan Koh Siang, Leong Tzi Ming, Jose Christopher Mendoza, Frank Rheindt and Hwang Wei Song), Editorial Board members and Editorial staff (Greasi Simon, Chua Keng Soon, and particularly Hazelina Yeo for copy editing).

Concurrently, the structure and composition of the Editorial Board is being reviewed and news of the new Editorial Board will be announced in 2014. One of the esteemed Editorial Board member – John T. Polhemus, has passed away on 21 May 2013. He had been a prolific author, with more than 270 scientific publications in the field of aquatic entomology. His expertise will be missed.

I have also recruited more Associate Editors to help with the expected influx of manuscripts. Please welcome on board: Jeffrey Kwik Teik Beng (National University of Singapore), in charge of ecological papers on aquatic organisms; Norman Lim T-Lon (University California, Davis, USA), in charge of mammals; James Reimer (University of Ryukyu, Japan), in charge of marine invertebrates (cnidaria, zooanthids); Tan Siong Kiat (National University of Singapore), in charge of terrestrial and freshwater Mollusca; and Sebastian Klaus (Johan Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Biologikum, Frankfurt, Germany), in charge of crustaceans.

At the same time, some Associate Editors will have a change of portfolio: Darren Yeo (National University of Singapore), in charge of ecological papers on invasive organisms; Tan Koh Siang (Tropical Marine Science Institute), in charge of marine invertebrates; Frank Rheindt (National University of Singapore), in charge of birds.

A new Editorial staff, Copy Editor Jeremy Yeo, has recently been hired to assist the newly promoted Senior Copy Editor, Hazelina Yeo. In addition to the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*, they will both be handling Nature in Singapore and the Raffles Museum Book series.

As I hold the last physical issue of the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*, I feel nostalgia for paper issues and the smell of old books. But it is time for change and advance forth, for time and tide wait for no man/woman.

Tan Heok Hui
Managing Editor