The European Journal of Taxonomy:
an E-journal for descriptive taxonomy

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Taxonomic journals

• Within EDIT consortium (2008):
  – 25 out of 28 EDIT members are publishers
  – 79 journals (+ 45 book/monograph series)
  – Only 70% available online
  – 28% (22 journals) with Impact Factor
    (of which 58% <1 = 13 journals)
• Classic journals shy away from descriptive taxonomy
  – No single species description, need to add analytical part
  – Phylogenetics, molecular systematics
  – Zoologica Scripta, Invertebrate Systematics,…

=> Paradox of taxonomic publishing :
  ⇒ Some journals can’t get the papers (no Impact Factor)
  ⇒ Other journals don’t want the descriptive papers (want to increase their Impact Factor)
Why do NHI need a new journal?

1. One of the tasks of NHI is to publish, disseminate scientific information

2. Real need for a high quality, peer-reviewed e-journal in systematic biology
   - That accepts descriptive taxonomic work
   - Provides all services of high level analytical journals

=> Previous EDIT meetings showed that such a journal would be highly valued by the taxonomic community
Digital revolution in electronic scholarly publishing: complexity

Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)

Open Access

Berlin and Budapest Declaration

Really Simple Syndication (RSS)

Green Road

Backlog

IngentaConnect

Extensible Markup Language (XML)

Application Programming Interface (API)

Intellectual Property rights (IPR)

Not-for-profit
Why do NHI need a new journal?

3. The world of scientific publishing is changing fast: online access, open access, DOI and cross referencing tools,...

No single NHI has all the resources to follow these rapid developments

Need for:

- Distinction of labour between editorial (scientific) and publishing (technical) aspects
- Need for collaboration between the different NHI
Why do NHI need a new journal?

4. Three business/ cost models
   • For profit
     – Subscription: the reader pays
     – Open access: the author pays
   • Not for profit
     – Free and open access: publisher (NHI) pays – diamond open access
Which NHI need a new journal?

• Those with small journal (without IF) that fail to attract good papers
• Those with good journals (with IF) that attract too many descriptive papers and need additional outlet
• Those that have commercially outsourced their journals and lost editorial control (rush for ever increasing IF...)

=> All can benefit from a joint initiative like EJT
Mission statement of the European Journal of Taxonomy

– web-based,
– fully free and open access journal (non for profit – diamond open access: neither reader nor authors must pay)
– on descriptive taxonomy in zoology, entomology, botany and palaeontology
– peer-reviewed
– including:
  • descriptions of new taxa,
  • taxonomic revisions,
  • continental and global checklists,
  • review and opinion papers related to taxonomic and systematic research.

AND SETTING HIGH STANDARDS FOR TAXONOMIC PUBLISHING
Setting high standards in taxonomic publishing

- Accessibility through Crossref
- **Guaranteed storage** and **electronic document integrity** through BHL (Biodiversity Heritage Library) and LOCKS
  - Taxonomic papers have long ‘shelf’-time
- Automated links to Encyclopedia of Life, Species 2000, WoRMs, FADA, GBIF, Zoobank, IPNI, ...
- Xml-based content harvesting technologies

=> Need for technical expertise in taxonomic publishing
We wanted an E-journal...

With ‘E’ standing for

• Electronic = web-based, using novel E-technologies

• European anchorage
  – Published (and paid) by European NHI
  – Authors should deposit specimens in or work on European NHI collections

BUT: world-wide outreach (topics, authors,...)
Editors

• Koen Martens, Belgium (EiC)
• Rudy Jocqué, Belgium
• Christian de Muizon, France

Journal managers

• Laurence Benichou, France (Ed. Man.)
• Danny Eibye-Jacobsen, Denmark
• Natacha Beau, Belgium
• Kristiaan Hoedemakers, Belgium
• Charlotte Thionois, France
European Journal of taxonomy

- Journal of Afrotropical Zoology [www.africanmuseum.be](http://www.africanmuseum.be)
- Bulletin de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique - Biologie / Bulletin van het Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen - Biologie [www.sciencesnaturelles.be](http://www.sciencesnaturelles.be)
- Steenstrupia [zoologi.snm.ku.dk/english/publications/steenstrupia/](http://zoologi.snm.ku.dk/english/publications/steenstrupia/)
Monograph

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:41B10E4D-7DAB-40CA-A8FE-4ECA078E04A3

A review of the tribes of Deltocephalinae
(Hemiptera: Auchenorrhyncha: Cicadellidae)

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European Journal of Taxonomy

A mountain of millipedes I: An endemic species-group of the genus *Chaleponcus* Attems, 1914, from the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania (Diplopoda, Spirostreptida, Odontopygidae)

Henrik ENGHOFF
Authorship origins
(published papers since 2011)

- Belgium: 28%
- Other European Countries: 13%
- USA: 6%
- UK: 9%
- Germany: 7%
- Russia: 4%
- South America: 6%
- Asia: 4%
- Australia / New Zealand: 8%
- France: 3%
- Netherlands: 4%
- Spain: 3%
Since 2011:

- Submitted: c 330 by end 2015
- Published: 139 volumes/ articles (c 150 end 2015)
- C 4300 pages
- Close to 500 new taxa
ISI Impact Factor EJT 2014 = 1.312!

1 = IF “to be” announced on Webpage
2 = IF announced by ISI
Future Projects

• Annotated checklist of Siberian Bird (c 3000 pp)
• DNA library of life (CNRS, INRA and MNHN: 105 teams access to Genescope)
• FADA/ AQUARES: opportunity to publish checklists...

=> Need to enlarge the consortium!!
Information – published papers (OJS)

http://www.europeanjournaloftaxonomy.eu/index.php/ejt/issue/archive

Submissions (EM)

http://www.editorialmanager.com/ejt/default.asp
European Journal of taxonomy

SUBMIT TO ME!!!

http://www.editorialmanager.com/ejt/default.asp