The European Journal of Taxonomy:

an E-journal for descriptive taxonomy

Koen Martens (Brussels)

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)

Taxonomic 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, dissiminate 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

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 commerically 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,...)

European Journal of taxonomy

European Journal of taxonomy: Launched September 2011

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.africamuseum.be
- Bulletin de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique - Entomologie / Bulletin van het Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen - Entomologie www.sciencesnaturelles.be
- Bulletin de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique - Biologie / Bulletin van het Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen - Biologie www.sciencesnaturelles.be
- Bulletin de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique - Sciences de la Terre / Bulletin van het Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen - Aardwetenschappen www.sciencesnaturelles.be
- Steenstrupia zoologi.snm.ku.dk/english/publications/steenstrupia/

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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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EJT nr 100

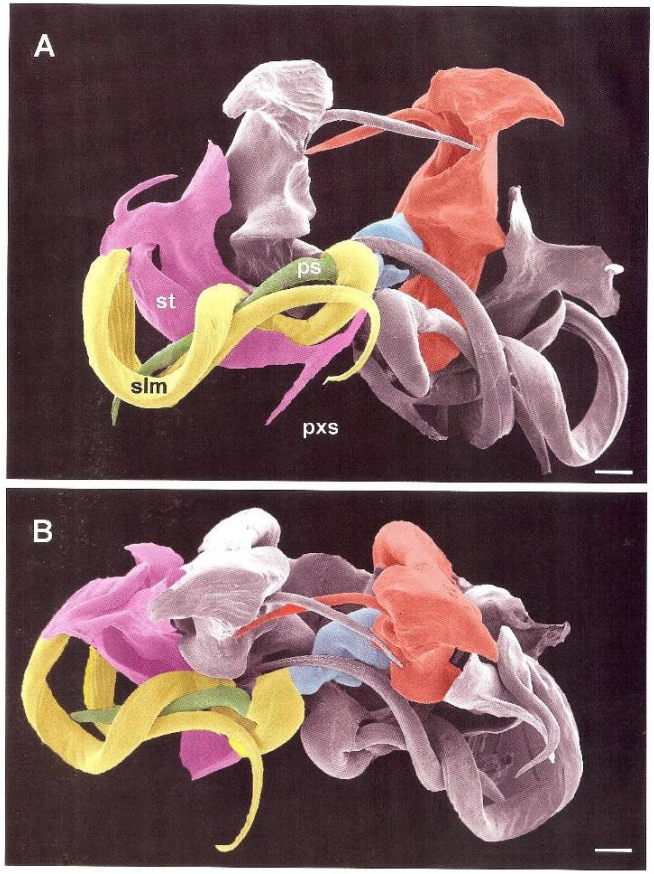
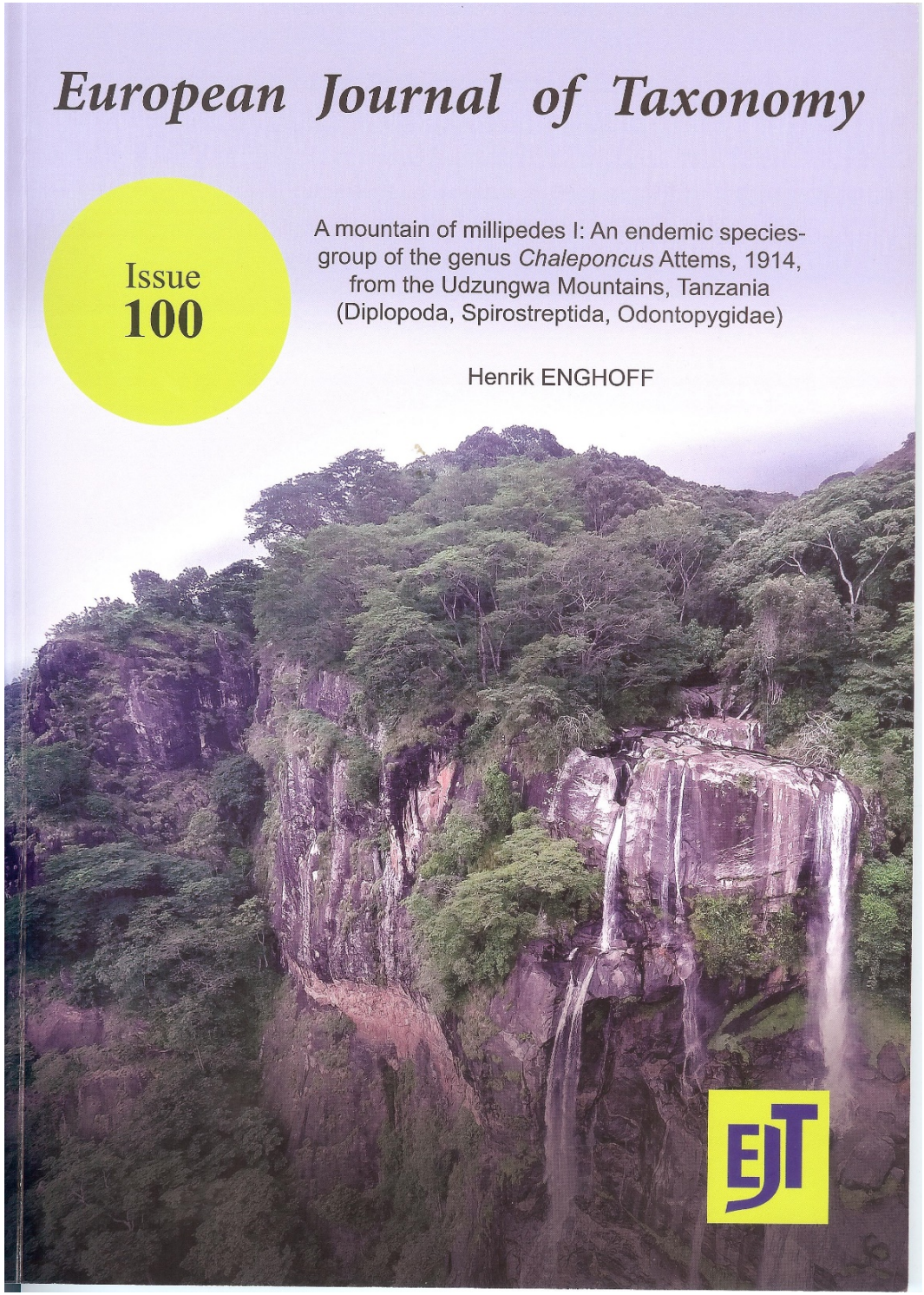
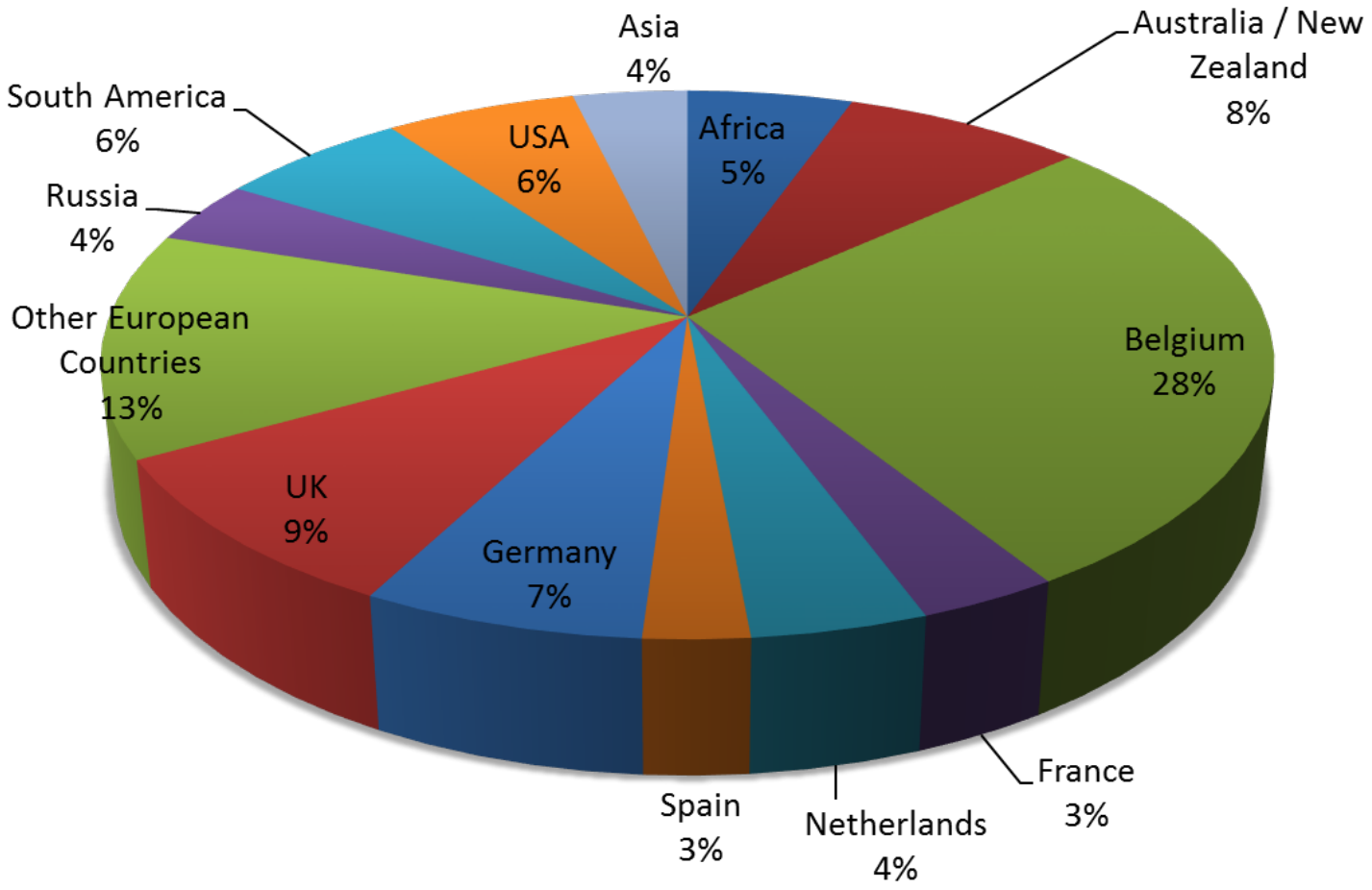


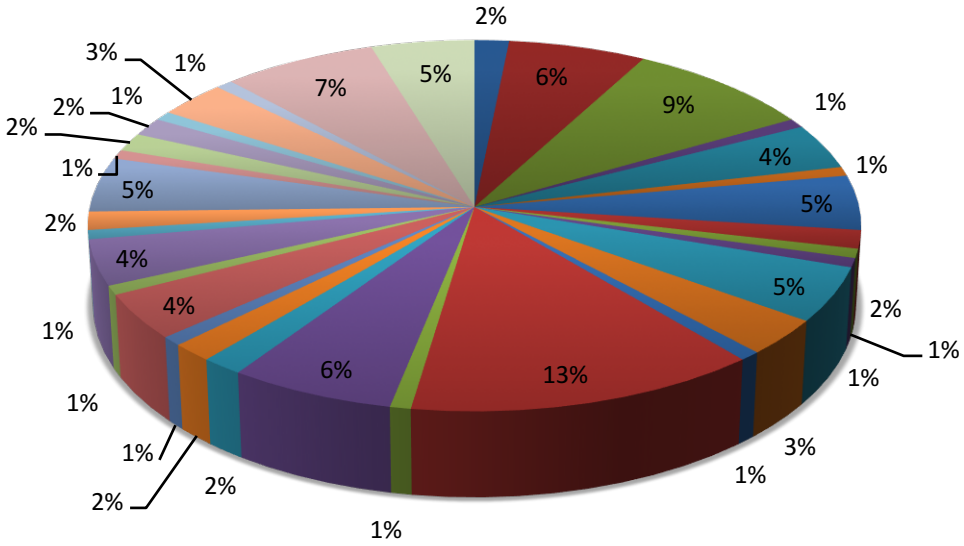
Fig. 10. *Chaleponcus netus* sp. nov., left gonopod, coloured. — **A.** Posterior view. **B.** Ventral view. Orange = coxite, blue = torsotope, yellow = solenomere (*slm*), green = proximal spine of solenomere (*ps*), pink = telomere. *pxs* = spine on proximal telomeral lobe, *st* = main stem of telomere. Scales 0.1 mm.



Authorship origins (published papers since 2011)



Rainbow submission



Austria Belgium Brazil Cameroon China

Czechia Denmark Ecuador Egypt Finland

France Germany Hungary India Indonesia

Iran Israel Italy Japan Malaysia

Norway Pakistan Philippines Roumenia Russia

Singapore Slovenia Spain Sweden Thailand

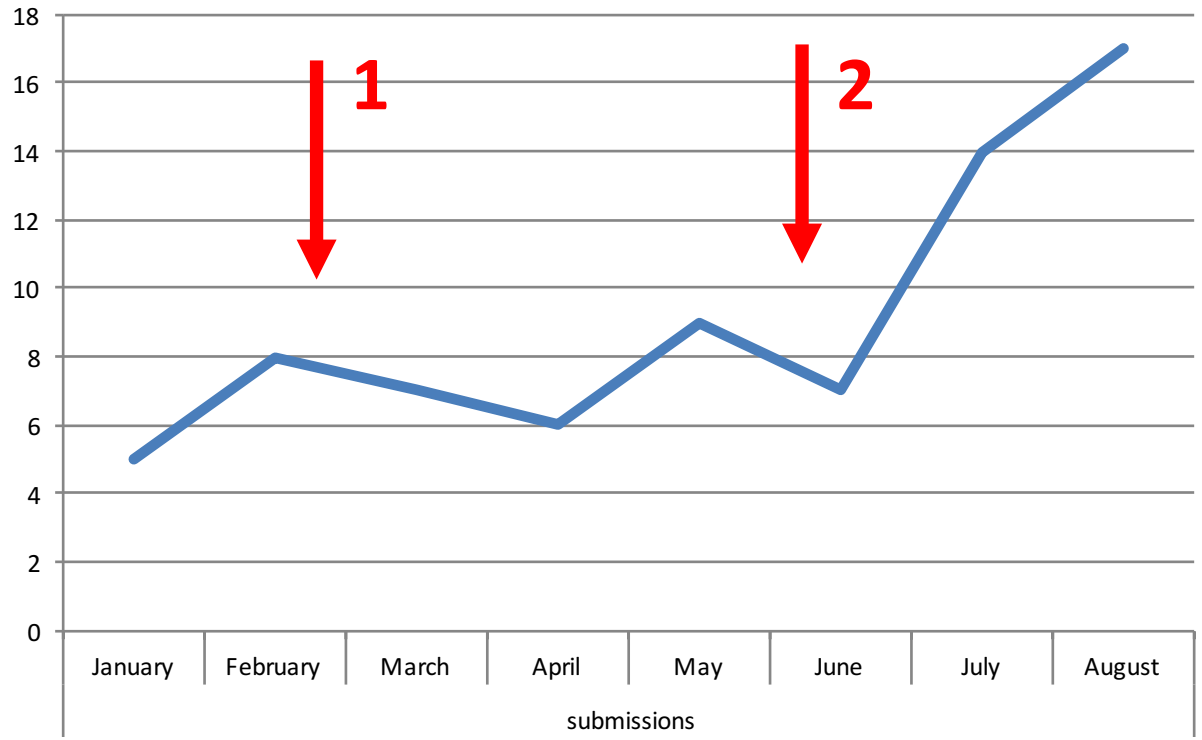
Turkey UK USA

European Journal of taxonomy

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!!

European Journal of taxonomy

Information – published papers (OJS)

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

Submissions (EM)

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

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