EDITORIAL

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Published online: 1 July 2016

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The journal *Mycological Progress* (MYCOL PROG) was founded in 2002 as flagship journal of the German Mycological Society (DGfM), and later several other European mycological societies became affiliated. Even though I had still been working in the pharmaceutical industry at that time, I greatly appreciated the efforts of Profs. Reinhard Agerer (the former DGfM president), Franz Oberwinkler (who became the first Editor-in Chief), and other leading German mycologists, to establish an English language journal to complement the “*Zeitschrift für Mykologie*”.

Prof. Franz Oberwinkler and Dr. Angelika Honold, the long-standing Managing Editor, have been instrumental in developing the journal to one of the most important mycological publication organs over the years. Traditionally, the focus of the journal has been on taxonomy and phylogeny, but

papers from other topics have been welcome, too. Since MYCOL PROG had been adopted by Springer in 2006 and soon received an Impact Factor in 2009, the importance of the journal for the mycological community has steadily increased. In the mycological community, the journal stands for quality of contributions as seen in several brilliant morphological and polyphasic studies of highest scientific quality that were not dealing with the “mainstream” fungi (e.g. economically important plant pathogens, mycotoxin producers, etc.). MYCOL PROG always welcomes manuscripts on ecologically interesting, rare, and even threatened groups of fungi and should be regarded as a stronghold of mycological biodiversity research.

Nevertheless, the journal has so far received relatively few overarching phylogenetic studies, and in particular some important monographs went to other journals. This was mainly owing to the fact that MYCOL PROG initially published four issues per year, with limited page numbers, which finally led to an immense backlog of papers in the “online first” queue. This backlog has probably discouraged mycologists from submitting larger studies that will normally receive more citations. For this reason, Prof. Oberwinkler, Profs. Dominik Begerow, Marco Thines and I have started an intensive discussion among ourselves and later on with representatives of Springer how we could further improve the workflow and increase the standing of MYCOL PROG. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Isabel Ullmann and Ms. Hanna Hensler-Fritton of Springer for their support, which is reflected in several re-organizational changes.

In 2015, after we have made a new agreement with Springer, the composition of the editorial board changed drastically. Section Editors were introduced and continuous article publication (CAP) started. A larger Editorial Board representing all fields of mycology was installed including highly profiled colleagues from all around the world. Luckily, the Managing Editor post could be maintained and

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we could engage Dr. Evi Weber, who had already assisted Dr. Honold in previous years and, like her predecessor, continues to do a fabulous job. The CAP publishing and the change to e-only has led to accelerated publication of articles, and also saves printing costs. These measures, and in particular the introduction of Section Editors, have led to a distribution of the workload, and consequently the papers are now being processed more rapidly. We have indeed been able to eliminate the backlog, and in general the papers normally will be published online and are citable in less than three weeks after acceptance.

I am deeply grateful to the team of specialists who is now collaborating even more efficiently and I am aware that each one is spending a lot of pro bono work, especially for the tedious tasks of finding suitable reviewers for the submitted manuscripts. I am also extremely grateful to those colleagues who are always willing to accept reviews on top of their busy workload and therefore make a substantial contribution to the success of our journal. Without the fact that I can rely on the help of the above mentioned people in the future, I would have been very hesitant to take over the monumental task as EIC from Franz Oberwinkler, whose experience and knowledge about almost all mycological disciplines is unparalleled! I am extremely grateful to Franz for his willingness to stay on board and help us to realize these important changes.

However, with the new Editorial Board in place, and after the experience of one year of CAP, we have decided to realise further changes in order to develop the journal into one of the leading mycological publication organs.

- Due to the fact that there are problems with the implementation of an electronic registration system for new fungal taxa because the mycological community could most unfortunately not yet agree to use a single repository for new names, it appeared practical to re-introduce page numbers. This will provide an unambiguous way of citation for the new fungal names. MYCOL PROG, will of course continue to accept only registration of new names in Mycobank, the official database of the International Mycological Association (IMA).
- The implementation of the “one fungus one name” (1FIN) concept in mycological taxonomy has afforded substantial work on the evaluation of phylogenetic relationships, in particular among all the major classes of Ascomycota. Initially, I have been very skeptical as to whether the introduction of an 1FIN concept was not premature, considering how little is known about anamorph-teleomorph relationships. But now that the decision was made, there is no way around to proceed with this approach. Thousands of fungal taxa that are hitherto only known from ancient type specimens will need to be recollected and re-typified in order to establish concise

relationships between the sexual and asexual states. Even in the Basidiomycota, an unprecedented diversity has recently been revealed by concise phylogenetic work, and I am following with great interest how multi-gene genealogies and phylogenomics will affect our understanding of the biological and functional diversity within the fungal kingdom. Reference sequences of these fungi are also badly needed to make sense out of the newly arising data from molecular ecology studies, which should also find their way into MYCOL PROG. In any case, there is a great demand for publication organs that can accommodate all these papers. MYCOL PROG will provide a forum for cutting-edge polyphasic taxonomic studies in the future. Supported by our peers in the mycological community, we have committed already special issues on “hyphomycetes”, and “phylogeny of Ascomycota”, respectively, that will be published during the course of the next year. We are very open for additional proposals.

- Along with the aforementioned special issues, we are encouraging authors to propose special issues on other topics, topical reviews or opinion papers. These proposals should be outlined and addressed to the Section Editors or myself before submission.
- As reflected by the composition of the current Editorial Board, MYCOL PROG will remain open for all kinds of studies in various fields of mycology and “Fungal Biology”, even though we have often needed to divert manuscripts that were submitted to the editorial office to more specialized journals. Authors should keep in mind that our readership is predominantly composed of taxonomists, phylogenists, and ecologists who have a broad interest in other topics, but might not appraise properly more focused or narrow studies written for a very small research community. Naturally, such specialized papers will in all likelihood be cited more frequently if they are published in the appropriate journal.
- As the page numbers will be re-introduced again as of this issue, we will have limited space again, and we will therefore usually not accept any more short communications or papers dealing with single species descriptions.

The above mentioned changes will soon be reflected in an updated version of the Instructions to Authors. I sincerely hope that you as readers and authors will help us to develop MYCOL PROG further. I firmly believe that mycology will play an increasingly important role in the next years, both in basic and applied science, and I hope we can continue to help in the dissemination of exciting results on the study of fungi and fungus-like organisms in the future!

Yours sincerely,
Marc Stadler