

FOREWORD

Over the past decade, concerns about sustainability in agriculture and forestry, the worrying resurgence of vector-borne diseases, the degradation of the environment and the loss of biodiversity have shaped a new way of thinking about the survival, not only of the human species, but also of the complex fabric of life on earth. There is now general acknowledgement that all human activities will have to be drastically modified to become ecologically sensitive and in harmony with nature. This awakening is of great interest to entomologists in particular, who deal with earth's largest group of species by far.

Arthropods are at the centre of most of our life-supporting activities, and are therefore essential to our very survival. The great majority of arthropod species exert a positive role in assuring our basic food needs, from maintaining soil fertility, to pollination, to biological control of other arthropod species, while in some societies, insects themselves are used as protein-rich food. Only a few species, in fact, play negative roles as disease vectors and crop pests. Other sustainable contributions that insects make to human life is through production of fibre, medicinal and cosmetic constituents, and other entomoproducts for much-needed income generation, particularly in the agro-based developing economies of the tropics.

These facts make arthropod research of increasing importance and thus the need for this specialised journal, which seeks to promote these positive aspects of the arthropod world, and in particular the broader aspects of arthropod science and its application in the tropics.

Insect Science and its Application has therefore been recast to better address this need. In particular, the journal would like to promote the publication of research results and reviews in the areas of insect ecology, biodiversity, conservation and utilisation, in addition to the more traditional entomological disciplines including papers in the area of integrated pest and vector management (IPVM) and biological control. We also encourage papers addressing the link between the aforementioned topics and their social and economic implications. The journal will, however, continue with its policy not to publish results of research promoting the use of synthetic pesticides.

This journal is also trying, to the extent that financial means allow, to publish research results from financially less endowed scientists from developing countries, by keeping reprint charges to the bare minimum and by not requesting page charges. New reviewers have been selected to cover the broadened scope of the journal. It is my goal to make the new *Insect Science and its Application* a journal with top-quality original research papers and review articles. During this period of revision of our editorial policies, we will revert to a quarterly publication schedule for Volumes 16 and 17.

As the journal's third Editor, I would like to pay tribute to the Founding Editor, Thomas R. Odhiambo, for his vision, and to his successor, K. N. Saxena, for his dedicated contribution. I invite my fellow entomologists to contribute articles and papers and also to subscribe to this journal. It is you who have asked for the journal to be saved and revamped, and you who will allow it not only to survive, but to become one of the major fora for general entomological science in the tropics.

Hans R. Herren
Editor-in-Chief
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