

PREFACE

The following guest editorial by Daniel Janzen reflects several of the changes introduced to *Insect Science and Its Application* that we hope will help our journal better serve the needs of an expanding audience. With this issue, we are initiating the publication of guest editorials, which we expect will provide stimulating perspectives on topics of current importance within the new and broadened scope of the journal. We welcome submissions of alternative perspectives, discussion of issues highlighted by these editorials, and suggestions for future themes.

The present editorial is reprinted from the forthcoming proceedings of a symposium on biodiversity to be published by the United States National Academy of Sciences. We are republishing it here because we feel it is highly relevant to our audience of tropical entomologists and agriculturists, most of whom are unlikely to see the original proceedings volume.

This essay is particularly interesting since it highlights the recent expansion of the scope of *Insect Science and Its Application* to include biological diversity, ecology, systematics, and environmental issues beyond the traditional fields of agricultural, medical and veterinary entomology. From 1990 to 1995, the journal published 513 research articles, which dealt with 459 species of arthropods. We are pleased to now open our pages to the other multiple millions of tropical insects that provide the ecosystem services that maintain the wildland garden, contribute substantially to sustainable agricultural production, and are essential for our very survival.

Aside from being one of the world's most productive tropical insect ecologists, Daniel Janzen has devoted much of his energy over the last 12 years to promoting and funding conservation in Costa Rica, catalysing major activities and challenging the way the world thinks about basic tenets of both the study and conservation of biological diversity. The present essay builds on his practical experience in a unique partnership amongst scientists, government, and most importantly, the local community, to create the Guanacaste Conservation Area in Costa Rica. This experience should be a model and an example to be adapted to other areas, but in particular Africa, where so much remains to be done.

As Janzen explains, long-term conservation of wildlands requires appreciation of the many products and services that those wildlands provide to human society. Wise use of these products and services and sustainable management of the wildlands requires understanding of their resources— who the species are, what they do for a living, how they interact, and where to find them. Humans must be viewed as an integral part of the conservation system. Although humans have managed agricultural gardens for thousands of years, we are only beginning to learn how to sustainably manage wildland gardens.



Hans R. Herren