

FOREWORD

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Since taking over as Editor-in-Chief of *Insect Science and its Application* with Volume 16, major changes have been undertaken by the editorial and production teams to improve the journal's quality, presentation, format, timeliness and overall coverage. In Volume 17, these changes are more visible, with the new cover design and layout. In terms of quality, the relevance and originality of the content of the accepted articles is being constantly improved. Inevitably, this has led to increased rejection of papers which no longer meet the new standards. On the editorial side, we have set in place a broadened team of scientific editors and given additional training to existing staff. The process of regionalising the editorial activities in Latin America, Asia and Africa is also progressing and we hope to have the regional offices in place in the not too distant future.

The editorial upgrading process is also helping to shorten the turnaround time from submission to acceptance and then publishing of papers, an issue which has been of great concern to me as Editor-in-Chief. The use of the latest desktop publishing tools is also contributing to improving the presentation quality and speed of publication. We are therefore again emphasising the need to receive the manuscripts, including all tables, graphs and pictures, in electronic form on diskette or as e-mail attachments. We encourage our authors to take advantage of the increased accessibility and use of e-mail throughout the world, as this will save time as well as sizable mailing and courier charges. We are hoping to have *Insect Science* available on CD-Rom in the near future in addition to the printed version for our subscribers.

Another effort is being made to increase the accessibility of *Insect Science* to a wider audience through a collaborative agreement between the journal, Bioline Publications and the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), a programme of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which will put the tables of contents of Volume 17 and 18 on the World-Wide Web, with eventual provision for ordering limited printouts of articles of interest. We anticipate that this exercise will help in overcoming the constraints faced by many authors and libraries in developing countries in acquiring the necessary foreign exchange to cover journal subscriptions. We are now pleased to announce that information about this new facility can be obtained from our editorial office. In a drive to keep subscription costs down, we are also proposing to carry advertisements of general agricultural and entomology-related products (with the exception of synthetic pesticides). Rates can be obtained from the editorial office.

The editorial team and I hope that these improvements will serve to attract entomologists from the tropical regions to publish their important work in *Insect Science and its Application*. Your suggestions and comments continue to be most welcome.



Hans R. Herren
Editor-in-Chief