

Editorial

Dear authors and readers,

It is a pleasure to announce, that as a result of the long-term activity of our authors, editors, reviewers and readers, our Journal received an Impact Factor in 2010. Even though it is relatively low for now (0.269), it is an actual objective grade on the popularity and significance of *Acta Zoologica Bulgarica* to the international scientific community.

Acta Zoologica Bulgarica has started in 1974 as a series by the Institute of Zoology of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, and beginning in 1997, it was approved by the Academy as a regular periodical Journal with 3 issues per year published in April, August and December. With the goal of improving the quality of the printed scientific articles, the Journal came out in a new format in 2007, with printed double columns and better quality paper, allowing high quality copies of TEM and SEM pictures. Because of the growing interest in the Journal, the publication of additional thematic issues (supplements) with reports from national and international scientific events began in 2005. The interest of international zoologists and ecologists toward the Journal heightened greatly. In the past 5 years only (2006-2011), 98 original scientific articles and short communications have been published by over 100 international authors from 17 countries in Europe, Asia and North America.

Although *Acta Zoologica Bulgarica* is officially a part of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, it has already turned into an International Scientific Journal and the articles published cover various areas of zoology (taxonomy, systematics, morphology, anatomy, biology, etc.), parasitology, zoogeography, ecology and ethology of the animals found in Bulgaria and Balkan peninsula, as well as in other geographical regions. With the proposed expanded Editorial Board, as well as with more active involvement of distinguished international scientists as reviewers, we hope to increase the number of issues and quality of the published scientific articles in the Journal and to make them more easily accessible to our readers. To do this, beginning in 2012, *Acta Zoologica Bulgarica* will be issued four times per year with fixed publishing deadlines: March, June, September and December. The publication of Journal Supplements with materials from national and international scientific zoological and ecological forums will also continue. Free online access to the abstracts will be available. More information about the Journal can be found at

www.actazoologicabulgarica.eu

I truly hope that in the following 2012 year, our Journal will contribute at an even greater extent to the development of zoology and ecology of animals, and thus to satisfy the interests of our authors and readers.

March, 2012

Editor-in-Chief: *Prof. Vassil Golemansky, DSc*

