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Bulletin of the Geobotanical Institute ETH

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Editorial policy

The *Bulletin of the Geobotanical Institute ETH* was first published in 1928 as the annual report of the Institute, and it has always included some scientific contributions. The *Bulletin* continues to report the activities of the Institute on an annual basis, but the main contents of the journal are more scientific papers. Although the *Bulletin* presents current results and new research projects of the Institute, we would like to include a growing number of contributions from outside the Institute. The focus of the Journal is on ecology and systematics of plants and fungi, but contributions

on interactions of plants and animals and on landscape ecology are also welcome. Descriptive and experimental studies of communities, populations, individuals and their interaction with other organisms are all acceptable.

Instructions to authors

The *Bulletin* is published on an annual basis in June (price per volume 40 Sfr). The deadline for submission is the end of February. Manuscripts in English are preferred, but German contributions will also be accepted. Three copies and one disk copy (3½-inch diskettes; Word, Excel) of the manuscript with all illustrations and tables should be sent with a covering letter to Dr. J. Kollmann, Geobotanical Institute ETH, Zürichbergstrasse 38, CH-8044 Zürich, Tel. +41-1-632-4307, Fax: +41-1-632-1215, kollmann@geobot.umnw.ethz.ch. Authors must confirm that the manuscript has not been submitted elsewhere. All parts of the manuscript must be typed double-spaced, with margins of 2.5 cm. The style of the manuscript (especially of the references) should be adapted to the last issue of the *Bulletin*. Abbreviations and symbols must be defined when they are first mentioned. The elements of the manuscript should be presented in the conventional order, including up to six keywords. For a description of these elements we refer to the current international standard of scientific papers. Manuscripts are submitted to two reviewers for evaluation of their scientific soundness and significance. Authors will generally be notified of acceptance, rejection, or need for revision within 1–2 months. Fifty offprints are supplied free of charge. Additional reprints may be ordered when authors will receive the proofs for verification.

Preface

PETER J. EDWARDS

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This is the fourth issue of the *Bulletin of the Geobotanical Institute ETH* in its new format. The decision to revise and maintain the journal came after a long consideration as to whether “house journals” still have a role to play in scientific publishing at a time when major international journals increasingly dominate the field. We concluded then that there was indeed a role for the *Bulletin* since it offered the opportunity to publish papers of high quality which for some reason might not be appropriate in the mainstream journals. In the Preface of the 1996 issue we set out what we saw as our particular niche. “We can publish research which is of regional interest in central Europe, but may be regarded as too parochial for some journals. We can also publish short notes or pilot studies for which no publishing opportunity exists elsewhere. Finally, we can provide a platform to describe work currently in progress and a forum for new ideas.”

We have been very pleased with the positive reception that the journal in its new format has received, not only from readers but also from potential contributors. Each year we receive more offers of papers than we can publish, and all are carefully refereed to determine their suitability. The research reports have proved particularly useful in presenting work at an early stage and have stimulated useful correspondence and exchange of ideas. Perhaps the only adverse criticism has concerned the change from German to English

for most of the articles. While we well understand the regret of those who see a Swiss journal with a distinguished history no longer appearing in one of the national languages, the change has certainly made the journal more accessible to a larger readership. The *Bulletin* now has a circulation of some 1400 copies, and copies go to major libraries on all continents. It is indexed in *Biological Abstracts* and Elsevier BIOBASE (*Current Awareness in Biological Sciences*), and accredited with the *International Association of Plant Taxonomy* for the purpose of registration of new plant names.

Much of the credit for the success of the revised journal must go to the editor, Dr. Johannes Kollmann. His attention to detail and insistence upon quality (even the editor-in-chief has had a paper rejected!) have been essential ingredients for its success. Next year, Johannes will jointly edit the *Bulletin* with Dr. Sabine Güsewell, who will then take over completely in the following year. This is therefore an appropriate opportunity to thank Johannes for his great contribution.

In the meantime we hope that you will continue to find the *Bulletin* interesting and useful, and we look forward to a continued flow of interesting manuscripts.

