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The *Bulletin of the Geobotanical Institute ETH* publishes original articles on the ecology and systematics of plants and fungi, interactions between plants and animals or microorganisms, vegetation and landscape ecology, and issues of nature conservation. Descriptive and experimental studies are both acceptable. Short communications, preliminary results and new research projects may be presented in the section "Research notes and projects". Manuscripts in English are preferred, but German contributions will also be accepted.

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The *Bulletin* is published on an annual basis in July. Manuscripts should preferably be submitted before the end of February; later sub-

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Preface

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This Preface provides an opportunity to bring the reader up to date on new developments regarding the *Bulletin of the Geobotanical Institute ETH*. We are pleased to announce that this year for the first time the contents of the *Bulletin* will be included in *Ecological Abstracts*. It is already indexed in *BIOSIS Previews* and the *Elsevier BIOBASE (Current Awareness in Biological Sciences)*. Another innovation is that in future it will be possible for authors to include electronic appendices to their papers. Thus, extensive data sets such as vegetation tables or other original data, as well as literature compilations or coloured illustrations can be published at no cost to authors. Details of how this will function are described on our web site (<http://www.geobot.umnw.ethz.ch/publications/periodicals/bulletin.html>). This web site also includes tables of contents of all previous issues of the *Bulletin*, with the possibility to order free back volumes. The list of available volumes of the *Veröffentlichungen des Geobotanischen Institutes der ETH, Stiftung Rübel*, which used to appear on the last few pages of the *Bulletin*, is also available on the web (<http://www.geobot.umnw.ethz.ch/publications/periodicals>). Therefore, this list will no longer be printed in our journal. The Editorial Board, who served the *Bulletin* since 1996, was partly renewed this year, and it now includes members from seven different countries. We take the opportunity to warmly thank all former Editorial Board members who left after serving the *Bulletin* for a number of years.

We continue to be encouraged by the positive reception that the journal receives, not only from readers but also from potential contributors both within and outside the Geobotanical Institute. We should appreciate receiving even more manuscripts in the future, including contributions from other countries, so as to make full use of the available number of pages per issue and to broaden the scope of our journal. All papers are carefully refereed to determine their suitability, and if necessary, authors are assisted in revising their manuscripts, so that the quality required for publication can be reached. We are particularly grateful to all internal and external referees who have contributed so much to ensuring the standard of our journal. The layout of the *Bulletin* owes much to the excellent work of the printer Sailer Druck (Winterthur/CH). The current print run of the *Bulletin* is 1400, and copies are sent to major libraries on all continents, thanks to the funding provided by the Rübel foundation.

This issue presents the usual mix of original research papers and research projects. We also include the annual report of the Geobotanical Institute, with an account of an institute excursion to the Lake District (UK). We hope that you will find it interesting and useful, and look forward to hearing from you with comments or – even better – offers of articles for next year's issue.

