



Editorial

Production of scholarly journals is constantly under change these days. Since the introduction of electronic publishing by the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) in 2009, several changes have been made in the production model of the European Journal of Protistology. The last one was made earlier this year, when the journal adopted Elsevier's ProofCentral, an author proofing tool using an HTML interface offered alongside the traditional PDF correction method. This tool has been introduced in 2011 and is now used by >1000 Elsevier journals. For these journals over 80% of authors have used the HTML version. The main benefit of ProofCentral is that proof return speed has increased dramatically as compared to PDF proofs only. Over 30% of proofs are returned within 24 h, as compared to around 6% for PDF proofing. We know from the publisher's Author Feedback Program that is effective since the end of 2011 that our authors rank refereeing and production speed among the most important benchmarks of the journal. For both elements, our journal scores well above the average of comparable journals. The average time from submission of a manuscript to the first decision was 5.4 weeks in 2014. The benchmark that is constantly listed on top of the >20 main statements asked in the questionnaire is refereeing standard, and the journal scored also high relative values for this indicator over the past years. Refereeing is a joint effort between the editors, editorial board members, and external reviewers. I would like to thank all of them for their continued excellent support. Besides all colleagues involved in refereeing, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the publisher's journal management and production staff, who are altogether responsible that more than 80% of our authors agreed to the statement 'I am very satisfied with this journal overall' during the past three years. I hope that most of our readers can also agree to this statement. Quality is primarily related to the submission of excellent articles and can only be supported by the refereeing and production process. Since many of our articles present detailed morphological and ultrastructural microphotographs, maintaining excellent print quality is of utmost

importance for the continued success of the European Journal of Protistology. It is encouraging that the journal's impact factor reached a record high, 2.339, during the last year. This and the other journal metrics can be viewed at the journal's website (<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/european-journal-of-protistology>).

Similar to the previous year, the total number of printed pages exceeded 600 in 2014, i.e. remained at a level not reached prior to 2013. The first two issues of the current year cover a broad diversity of research topics, both in terms of discipline and taxonomic affiliation of the protist species. We plan to publish a special issue in relation to the VII ECOP-ISOP Joint Meeting that will be held in Seville during early September this year. This will continue a tradition that had been started with issue 39(4) of the journal that contained papers related to invited lectures given at the 4th European Congress of Protistology, held at San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy, in 2003. The last special issue, 48(2) published in May 2012, summarised invited and prize-winning presentations presented at the VI ECOP meeting in Berlin. We can expect that the Seville meeting will break new ground in protistological research. For the first time, the European Congress of Protistology will be organized by the Federation of European Protistological Societies (FEPS) in partnership with the International Society of Protistologists (ISOP). This joint meeting will provide a comprehensive overview of the latest research developments in the various protistological fields. You will find further information on this congress in the second announcement at the end of this issue. The Seville meeting will also be an excellent opportunity to foster communication between the editors, authors, and readers of the journal. In this context, I would like to remind our readers that the journal allocates up to four pages per issue for news and announcements from FEPS or its constituent societies. As a recent example, see the Report of the 2014 Joint Workshop of the International Research Coordination Network for Biodiversity of Ciliates and the British

Society for Protist Biology published in the first issue of this year. Our primary endeavour is to publishing first-class articles in the various areas of protistological research, and we look forward to receiving comments and suggestions from our authors and readers to further improve the overall quality of the journal.

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