

African Herp News

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Subscriptions Management

There is a need for central management of back-issues due to the relatively high turn-over of committee staff (matter of storage of back-issues and cost of posting) as well as daily input required for subscription management. NISC in Grahamstown already handles distribution of AJH for South Africa and are a candidate for such a task

JEANNE TARRANT

JOURNAL EDITOR'S REPORT

This report covers my second period as editor for African Journal of Herpetology (January 2011 to January 2013). Since my last report (African Herp News 53:5-7), the journal has continued to grow and strengthen. We have seen the 60th volume reporting a widening of research interests covered in the journal together with increasing rigor in publication quality over 47 years of publications (see *Afr. J. Herpetol* 60:89-100). Since the last report there has also been some shuffling of personnel associated with the journal: two new Associate Editors and a new Chair of the Editorial Board, Graham Alexander. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing chair, Mike Bates, for all his work toward making the journal a success.

Taylor & Francis Publishing AJH

Our arrangements with Taylor & Francis (T&F) for publishing AJH have seen stability and quality in the appearance of the journal. After some difficulties in the distribution arrangements (previously with UNISA) these duties have been outsourced to NISC at no additional expense to the HAA.

Our members continue to have free access to all AJH pdfs right back to Volume 1 in 1965 via the T&F website (<http://www.tandfonline.com/>)

toc/ther20/current). Each password changes annually, so make sure that you don't discard the emails that you receive from T&F issuing these. Contact the HAA secretary in case of doubt.

It was anticipated that using T&F and their online platform would help increase visibility of AJH throughout the academic world. With the launch of the "Taylor & Francis online platform" (in June 2011), we can now see how wide our current distribution is. In the last 1.5 years, 11 669 AJH articles were downloaded by a total of 494 institutions; number one in this period was Seoul National University of South Korea with 1 368 downloads! We can also see which articles were downloaded. Congratulations to Greenbaum *et al* (2012) for the massive 424 downloads of their paper describing a new Congolese cordylid. Other mega-downloaded articles were Branch & Tolley (2010), van der Meijden *et al* (2011), Wallach *et al* (2010), Measey *et al* (2011) and Meyer *et al* (2010) who all exceeded 200 downloads during the past 1.5 years.

For submissions, we continue to use an online system (ScholarOne: mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ther) which really helps ease the complexities of editorial work. During the scope of this report we received 42 submissions (one mini-review, one review, 32 original articles, and eight short communications) The ScholarOne system produces its own metrics which were carried in the last report, and continue below. The following metrics relate to the 2011 and 2012 activity for AJH on ScholarOne:

ScholarOne metrics	Days
Average Time to First Decision	29
Average Referee Turnaround Time	20
Average Time to Final Decision	48
Proportion Accepted	40.5%

Associate editors

As before, work on the journal has not been achieved by the editor alone but through a concerted effort from a committed editorial team. I'd

like to take this opportunity to thank all the Associate Editors (AEs). Two new AEs were appointed during this period: Jörn Khöler (Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt) and Bryan Maritz (Cornell University). They join the now veteran AEs: David Blackburn (now at the Californian Academy of Sciences) and Eli Greenbaum (University of Texas at El Paso). AEs take on an important and vital role investing a lot of time in reading and assessing manuscripts, reading reviewer's reports and making recommendations. Their work lies at the heart of the quality of outputs that we see when we read AJH.

Special Edition

A special edition of African Journal of Herpetology (Volume 62; Issue 1) will appear in April 2013. This will carry a series of papers dedicated to the herpetological career of John Poynton, and follows a symposium held in honour of him during the 15th African Amphibian Working Group in Trento, Italy during May 2012. This special edition is being jointly edited by Simon Loader, Hendrik Müller and myself. If you wish to organise a special edition of the journal, please contact the editor.

Metrics

As many members will be aware, the world of scientific publishing is now largely governed by metrics, and you'll be happy to know that African Journal of Herpetology continues to rise through the ranks. Our Impact Factor (IF) reached an all-time high in 2011: 0.714. (from 0.500 in 2010).

JOHN MEASEY
