

EDITORIAL

The *European Journal of Entomology* continues the work of a journal known for the past 28 years as *Acta Entomologica Bohemoslovaca*. Since it was founded in 1904 as a periodical of the Czech Entomological Society (under the title *Acta Societatis Entomologicae Bohemiae*), it has made a long and varied way, from its beginnings as a local publication, with articles mainly in Czech, to its status today as a fairly well-established international entomological forum.

After the war the journal was published behind the Iron Curtain. This entailed severe restrictions on its work, which we will not describe here. We are glad to have survived that time, and we hope that, apart from a few excesses in the worst days of the 1950's, the journal succeeded in maintaining an acceptable standard of scientific integrity.

With the removal of barriers between East and West, our situation has fundamentally changed. Political considerations no longer interfere with our work, and scientists have regained control of the journal's form and content, limited only by the funds available. Now opening its ninetieth volume, the journal has recently undergone some important changes. Some of them, like its new paper stock, print style, cover design and title, are readily apparent. Others are less conspicuous but no doubt more significant, and are involved with our efforts to solicit good papers and to improve and streamline our reviewing process. This would be quite inconceivable without the help of our many collaborators. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have been helpful in so many ways, especially in reviewing papers. Our thanks are due to the members of the Editorial Board, but also to numerous scientists with no particular connection to our journal, who nevertheless responded readily to our request to review a paper.

We would also like to make an open invitation to all potential contributors. We will try to process submissions promptly, and to evaluate them strictly but fairly. There are no restrictions regarding the subject, author, geographic region, and so on, of any submission. All which fall within the broadest bounds of the field of entomology, including Myriapoda, Chelicerata and terrestrial Crustacea, are appropriate. Nevertheless, we prefer papers in which the insect is the main object of interest, not merely a testing tool. We want to be an "author-friendly" journal (e.g., offering free reprints and no page charges) as far as our funds allow.

We have chosen the heteropteran *Pyrrhocoris apterus* as our cover insect. Introduced as a model species by European entomologists, it has now become a link between quite diverse entomological disciplines, and has played a part in some events of worldwide significance (beginning with the discovery of the juvenile hormone analogs). We hope that as such it will prove to be a faithful symbol of the *European Journal of Entomology*.

The Editors