



A new year for *Phytotaxa* and some changes

HANS-JOACHIM ESSER¹ & ZHI-QIANG ZHANG²

¹*Botanische Staatssammlung München, Menzinger Strasse 67, 80638, München, Germany; E-mail: esser@bsm.mwn.de*

²*Landcare Research, Private Bag 92-170, Auckland, New Zealand; E-mail: ZhangZ@landcareresearch.co.nz*

2012 saw changes for both botanical taxonomy in general and the journal *Phytotaxa* in particular. Effective from 1 January 2012, (1) electronic-only publication of new nomenclatural acts is allowed, if they are published online in Portable Document Format (PDF) with an International Standard Serial Number or an International Standard Book Number, and (2) the requirement for a Latin description or diagnosis for names of new taxa is dropped (a description or diagnosis for new taxa can be in either Latin or English (Knapp *et al.* 2011)). These changes represent exciting opportunities for botanical taxonomy. *Phytotaxa* embraced e-publishing with the first volume on 1 January 2012—*Phytotaxa* being in fact the first journal to publish new taxa and nomenclatural acts online following the new code amendment (as New Zealand happened to be the first country to enter the year 2012). Individual articles are published online now in PDF as soon as they are ready, and the print volume is produced for permanent archive somewhat later when enough papers are accumulated for one volume.

Another important change this year for *Phytotaxa* is the resignation of Dr Maarten Christenhusz as the Chief Editor as of 1 January 2012, as announced by Christenhusz & Zhang (2011). Maarten first approached Zhi-Qiang Zhang (Chief Editor and founder of *Zootaxa*) in April 2009 about the possibility for a new journal replicating the success of *Zootaxa* (Zhang 2006, 2008) in botany. Maarten was very enthusiastic about this and was very successful in organizing an editorial team in mid-2009. The first volume of *Phytotaxa* was published in October 2009 (Christenhusz *et al.* 2009), and Maarten served as the founding Chief Editor for the journal during 2009–2011. During his tenure as the Chief Editor, Maarten dedicated a considerable amount of his time and energy to *Phytotaxa*. He drafted the guidelines of the journal, edited numerous manuscripts himself, indexed most of the published volumes in 2009–2011 (*e.g.* Christenhusz 2009, 2011) and supported other subject editors over the last two years. He was very approachable and helpful, and has always been available to contact for any kind of questions or discussions. In a relatively short period, *Phytotaxa* has transformed itself into a widely accepted and very successful journal for rapid publication of taxonomic novelties. In the year 2011, 2,143 pages were published in 24 volumes (Christenhusz & Zhang 2011), and in this year already seven volumes were completed. *Phytotaxa* was obviously started just at the right time of many changes. It is not only good timing, but also has been Maarten's input and dedication that contributed to the great success of this journal.

It is understandable that Maarten needed to have more time concentrating on his own research. He has kindly agreed to continue to work as a Subject Editor for *Phytotaxa*, and so will not be gone completely. We offer Maarten our heartfelt thanks for his guidance and support of the journal in its infant years, and for his commitment and contributions to its rapid progress.

Hans-Joachim (Hajo) Esser has assumed the role of Chief Editor and intends to maintain the high quality and great success of *Phytotaxa*.

In 2011, *Phytotaxa* was selected for coverage in *Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)*, *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)* and *Biosis*. Because indexing of *Phytotaxa* started from volume 1 (2009), the first impact factor (for 2011) will be available in June 2012 when *JCR* 2011 edition will be released. Based on *SCIE* citations in 2011 of papers published in *Phytotaxa* during 2009 and 2010, we estimate that the impact factor (2011) will be 1.6 or slightly higher, a great outcome for *Phytotaxa* and for taxonomy in general.