



Sustaining the development of world's foremost journal in biodiversity discovery and inventory: Zootaxa editors and their contributions

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It is easier to achieve growth initially than to sustain it for the long term. *Zootaxa* is no exception. Understanding the factors contributing to the growth of *Zootaxa* in the past will be very useful to achieve sustained growth in the future. Here I briefly review the history of the growth of this journal and also some of the measures taken to ensure its continued success. In particular, I recognize the important roles of our editors with a summary of data in 2013 in comparison to those in 2007.

Sustaining the growth of *Zootaxa*

Founded in 2001, *Zootaxa* experienced a period of very rapid growth during the first five years and published 575 papers in 12,447 pages in 2005 (Zhang 2006a). This was followed by another rapid increase in 2006 (1,020 papers in 22,052 pages, Zhang 2006b), but thereafter two years of relatively slow annual increase: 1,058 papers in 23,530 pages in 2007 and 1,162 papers in 24,409 pages in 2008 (Zhang 2010). It seemed then that a plateau might have been reached. However, the rates of increase in 2009 and 2010 picked up speed again (Zhang 2011a; Table 1).

After the first decade of rapid growth, *Zootaxa* continued to grow in the last three years as seen in the steady increase in the number of papers, with an average 10% annual increase (Table 1); the slight decrease in the number of pages in 2011 was due to the change of layout of the pages to economize the use of space (a similar change in layout in 2007 economized the use of space while allowing increased number of papers; Zhang 2008). The average size of a paper is 18 or 19 pages during the last three years (Table 1). It should be noted that among these papers, *Zootaxa* on average published two monographs/books per week during the last three years (a paper of 60 pages or more is issued separately as a book).

TABLE 1. Number and annual rate of increase of papers/pages in during the last five years in *Zootaxa*.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number papers and other items	1488 (28.1%)	1582 (6.3%)	1746 (10.4%)	1980 (13.4%)	2135 (7.8%)
Number of pages (rate of growth over previous year)	28,858 (18.2%)	32,330 (12.0%)	32,143 (-0.6%)	37,378 (16.3%)	39,921 (6.8%)
Average length of papers	15.4	20.4	18.4	18.9	18.7

In addition to changes in layout, *Zootaxa* also modified the methods for issuing and binding when needed to allow more cost-efficient publishing. During the first four years, each paper, short or long, was separately issued and bound to allow each paper to be published rapidly, independent of other papers (Zhang 2005). With rapid

growth, *Zootaxa* sometimes published several papers/issues on the same day and almost always several within a week in 2003–2004 (Zhang 2009); so a decision was made in 2005 to combine short papers into issues of about 60 pages to save production and mailing cost (Zhang 2005)—started after 1000th paper was published in *Zootaxa* 1000 (Rodiles-Hernández *et al.* 2005).

In 2012, The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (2012) amended several articles of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN) to allow e-publication of new taxa and new nomenclatural acts. *Zootaxa* responded immediately to register each article at ZooBank before publication and meet the online archiving needs, while retaining the print edition as a paper archive (Zhang 2012).

From 2013, regular issues (ICZN Code-compliant) of normally 100 or 200 pages are published every week day online (except weekends and public holidays) and several issues are combined to volumes of 600 pages for printing, which saves printing/binding and mailing cost. An online archive was also developed at Biotaxa.org as planned (Zhang 2011b) and all PDF files of current issues were converted to ISO-compliant PDF/A versions for long term digital preservation; both PDF and PDF/A versions are archived at <http://www.biotaxa.org/zootaxa/> on the same day as they are published (<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>). From 2013, all papers of *Zootaxa* are assigned DOIs in addition to LISD from ZooBank. All back issues will also be archived in the future.

During 2001 to 2010, the total number of new animal taxa described in the world fluctuated between 18,106 and 20,709 per year, but the number of new taxa published in *Zootaxa* increased at a rapid rate, reaching close to one-fifth of world's total in 2010 (Zhang 2011a). During the last five years (2009–2013), *Zootaxa* published about 24% of all new taxa and new nomenclatural acts indexed in *Zoological Record* (based on estimates at the end of 2013: <http://www.organismnames.com/metrics.htm?page=tsj>).

Editors and their contributions

Over ten thousands of taxonomists from over a hundred countries have joined *Zootaxa* as authors, reviewers and editors, creating a community of people with shared values that is very important to the success of this journal (Zhang 2010). The team of expert editors has played a central role in this community and has contributed greatly to the success of *Zootaxa*. Here I summarise active editors in 2013 and their contributions, in comparison to data in 2007 (which I collected in 2008).

There were 210 active editors in 2013, and each of them accepted on average 10 papers (cf: 123 active editors in 2007 and each accepted on average 9 papers). However, the distribution of manuscripts among editors are highly uneven (Table 2). Most editors (70%) accepted at most 10 papers in 2013 (Table 2); this is very similar to that in 2007 (68%); about 14% of the editors each accepted only a single paper in 2013. Only 12% of the editors accepted more than 20 papers in 2013 (cf. 10% in 2007). Editors Vences and Schaefer are the top two editors for both 2013 and 2007 (Table 2). Some editors accepted more large papers than others; the top 10 editors in 2013 are listed both by the number of papers and number of pages (Table 3).

TABLE 2. *Zootaxa* editors and their contributions in terms of number of papers accepted/published in 2013 (compared with data in 2007).

Number of papers accepted per editor	Number and names* of editors per category			
	2013		2007	
66–70	1	Vences		
61–65	0		1	Vences
56–60	1	Schaefer	0	
51–55	0		0	
46–50	1	Carvalho	0	
41–45	3	Castro, Klimaszewski, Carranza	1	Schaefer

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TABLE 2 (continued)

Number of papers accepted per editor	Number and names* of editors per category			
	2013		2007	
36–40	1	Rentz	1	Carranza
31–35	6	Dietrich, Jennings, Mound, Rasmussen, Landry, Goy	3	Page, Gusarov, Zhang
26–30	4	Ahyong, Gall, Bickel, Morse	2	Ahyong, Evenhuis
21–25	9	Pethiyagoda, Zhang, Paulson, Seeman, Holleman, Lejel, Anderson, Shear, Sinclair	4	Carvalho, Dronen, Moulton, Weiner
16–20	10	Halliday, Kondratieff, Smith A.B.T., Karaman, Vink, Bauer, Malipatil, Mullin, Gibson, Gaimari	11	Johnson, Pollock, Castro, Goy, Shear, Rentz, Bickel, Dietrich, Winterton, Longino, Seeman
11–15	26	Weksler, Bochkov, Hormiga, Longino, Rider, Schatz, Sparks, Wang, Brown, Davies, Minelli, Rossaro, Weiner, Alonso, Fannes, Padiál, Shockley, Contreras-Ramos, Gaubert, Hutchings, Majka, Martin, Prieto, Serrano, Svavarsson, Szűts,	16	Brown, Buffington, Fan, Larsen, Dewalt, Hubbard, Packer, Walker-Smith, Ribera, Svavarsson, Karaman, Morse, O'Hara, Pitts, Rocha, Sterrer
06–10	58	*	27	*
01–05	90	*	57	*

* Those editors who accepted 10 or fewer papers per year are too numerous and not individually listed.

TABLE 3. Top 10 editors of *Zootaxa* in 2013 based on number of papers accepted or total pages.

By number of papers accepted		By number of pages of accepted papers	
68	Vences	1142	Jennings
59	Schaefer	1072	Rasmussen, Vences
49	Carvalho	940	Lelej
42	Castro, Klimaszewski	867	Ahyong
41	Carranza	861	Carvalho
38	Rentz	810	Carranza
35*	Dietrich, Jennings, Mound, Rasmussen	786	Landry
		773	Schaefer
		670	Pethiyagoda

* Four editors have a tie so a total of 11 (not 10) of top 10.

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