



## Ave atque vale

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Taxonomic botany is probably the last discipline that still publishes descriptions in Latin. This has a very long tradition, dating back to the first herbals from the 15<sup>th</sup> Century (Arber 1938), but times changed and English became a more widespread language in science. In botany a Latin diagnosis to validate the name only became a requirement in 1953. For decades it has been suggested that this requirement should be abolished, because most botanists are no longer fluent in Latin and many published Latin diagnoses were of poor quality or incomprehensible. However, it was not until this year that the International Botanical Congress in Melbourne, Australia changed the requirements for valid publication to allow diagnoses in English instead (Knapp *et al.* 2011). A diagnosis will still be needed next to the description of the new taxon, but because Latin is no longer required, we forecast an increase in new species descriptions in the New Year. Many taxonomists are not fluent in Latin and therefore researchers may have waited to submit descriptions of their new taxa until 2012. We welcome these new manuscripts and will do our best to accommodate them.

The end of the year is approaching, which is a good opportunity for us to inform our readers about the progress and future of *Phytotaxa*. Since the launch of *Phytotaxa* in 2009, 38 volumes with 212 papers have been published of which 144 are original articles. In 2011 the number of volumes increased by 100% (Table 1). This is of course due to an increase in submissions of high quality papers, which may be a result of the indexing in SCIE, JCR and Biosis. We are expecting our first impact factor next year, which will hopefully result in an even greater increase in number and quality of submitted papers.

Currently the longest paper is the checklist for familial and suprafamilial names of extant vascular plants, probably better known as the *Index Nominum Supragenericorum*, which runs to 404 pages (Reveal 2010), but on average papers are 18 pages long. Almost half (just over 45%) of papers are Open Access, and the number of citations has increased by a staggering 443% (Table 1). This means that *Phytotaxa* is well-read in the discipline and

**TABLE 1.** Growth of *Phytotaxa* from 2009 to 2011 (launched in October 2009 and thus only two months in 2009).

	2009	2010	2011	Total
Number of volumes	2	12	24	38
Number of pages	116	1677	2143	3936
Number of pages per volume (average)	58	140	89	-
Number of papers	19	76	117	212
Number of articles	10	52	82	144
Number of correspondence	5	9	5	19
Number of editorials	3	9	20	32
Number of book reviews	1	0	0	1
Number of monographs	0	6	8	14
Number of corrections	0	0	2	2
Number of pages per paper (average)	6	22	18	-
Number of open access papers	6	34	53	93
Proportion of the total	31.6%	44.7%	45.3%	-
Number of citations*	1	23	102	126

\* From Science Citation Index (data of 9 Dec. 2011)