



A daily journal of taxonomy for rapid species discovery

ZHI-QIANG ZHANG

New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Landcare Research, 231 Morrin Road, St. Johns, Auckland 1072, New Zealand
zhangz@landcareresearch.co.nz

Zootaxa is eight years old. It is time that we publish *Zootaxa* daily to further accelerate species discovery and publication.

On 28 May 2001, the first issue of *Zootaxa* was published with the description of a new species of flat mite (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from Brazil (Moraes & Freire 2001).

Four years later, a milestone was reached when the 1000th issue—also the 1000th paper because each issue had a single paper—was published on 27th May 2005 with the description of a new species, genus and family of catfish from the Río Usumacinta basin of Chiapas, México (Rodiles-Hernández *et al.* 2005). Since then, short papers (< 60 pages) were no longer separately issued, but were combined into multi-paper issues of 60 pages or more (Zhang 2005). This saved paper, reduced the costs of printing, binding and delivery, and also decreased the number of issues published per week during following years (Fig. 1).

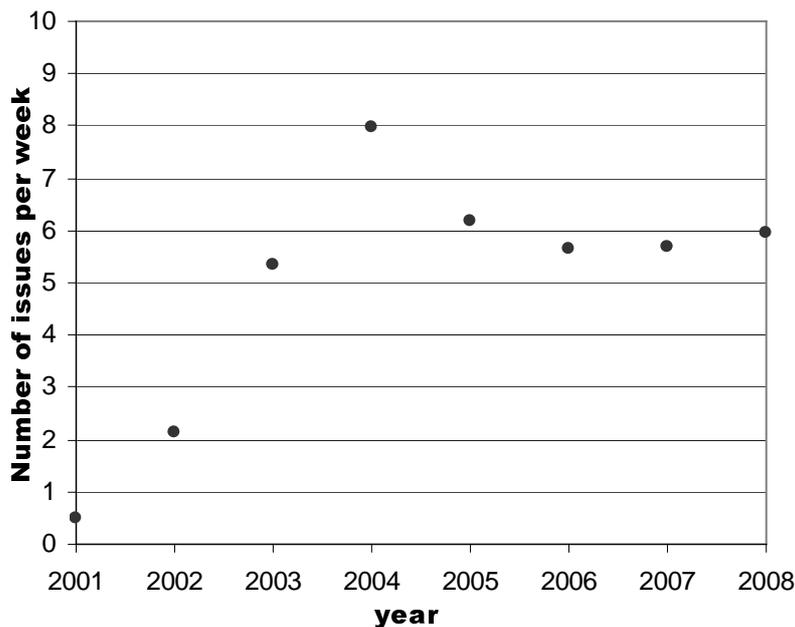


FIGURE 1. Number of issues published per week in *Zootaxa* from 2001 to 2008. Note that up to 27th May 2005, each issue contained a single paper, but later, short papers were combined into multi-paper issues of 60 pages or more, while large papers of 60 or more pages were separately issued as monographs.

In the first four years of *Zootaxa*, over 1,100 authors from all over the world published 1,000 papers/monographs in more than 23,000 pages. By the end of 2005, *Zootaxa* had published 1,103 issues in a total of 31,038 printed pages, with contributions from 1,619 authors describing 2,337 new taxa (Zhang 2006a). Shortly after that, *Zootaxa* became a mega-journal in 2006 when the number of papers it published per year reached 1,000 and the number of pages per year exceeded 20,000 (Zhang 2006b). During 2004–2006, the frequency of publication remained at about twice per week,

usually with multiple issues per publication day, but then increased during the last two years, reaching three times per week in 2008 (Zhang 2008). By the end of 2008, *Zootaxa* had published 1968 issues in over 100,000 printed pages, with contributions from over 5,000 authors from over 100 countries around the world.

During the last three years, over five issues were published each week, with sufficient material to publish *Zootaxa* daily (Fig. 1). In 2006, often two or three issues were published on two occasions each week. In the second half of 2007 and all 2008, often two and sometimes three issues were published every other day. In 2009, this same trend is maintained, with a slight increase in the number of issues over 2008.

On the 8th anniversary of *Zootaxa*, it is opportune to formally make *Zootaxa* a daily journal and to open a historical new phase of dynamism in taxonomic publishing!

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