



In memory of Robert Campbell Dalgleish (1940–2009)



Dr Robert Campbell Dalgleish—Zootaxa’s editor for Phthiraptera and Siphonaptera—died suddenly of a heart attack on December 7th at his home in San Diego, California, USA. He was in contact with the editorial office when he accepted two manuscripts for *Zootaxa* in Nov. 2009 (Lareschi & Linardi 2009; Mound 2009). I was shocked and deeply saddened when I heard the news of his passing in December 2009.

I first corresponded with Bob in early 2005 when he submitted two papers on *Myrsidea* for publication in *Zootaxa* (Dalgleish & Price 2005; Price, Hellenthal & Dalgleish 2005). He was very enthusiastic about the new model of *Zootaxa*. Later, he joined *Zootaxa*’s editorial team in November 2005 as an editor for Phthiraptera. In March 2006, he offered to edit papers on small arthropod (and also some invertebrate) groups without dedicated subject editors (and sometimes manuscripts by subject editors without co-editors for the same group, such as Thysanoptera), and he continued his full support for manuscripts on these taxa until 2008 when he took on editorship for Siphonaptera.

Bob was an excellent and dedicated editor. This is best reflected in what an author—André Nemésio—said to me about him:

“I would like to record that your subject editor, Dr. Robert Dalgleish, is the best editor to whom I have ever submitted a paper. He treated me kindly, honestly, frankly and with absolute correction. Moreover, he was extremely competent and fast in his work. I am very impressed. It's difficult to imagine that ALL editors of *Zootaxa* are so dedicated as Dr. Dalgleish, but if they present 50% of his dedication, this journal is in a very firm ground. Congratulations for your choice! Dr. Dalgleish is really what we, authors, expect from every editor!”

Bob was also a very active and important member of the editorial team. He shared his experience with co-editors and gave excellent ideas about how we can improve the standard and service of the journal. In 2007, several editors of *Zootaxa* organized a symposium “Zootaxa Phenomena” during the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Entomological Collections Network (ECN). This was held during 8 to 9 December, 2007 in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Entomological Society Meeting, in San Diego, California. Bob gave a presentation “Zootaxa: Phthiraptera” and took the time and effort to prepare a detailed and informative report for me and the editorial team, sharing his reflections and insights:

“Clearly *Zootaxa* addressed an unmet need. To a certain extent its growth may represent its innovation—will it continue to grow? Consequences of this growth include: increased shelf space in libraries; increased cost to libraries; increased work-load on editors, reviewers, and *Zootaxa* staff. “Burn-out” was an oft used expression of concern by presenters. Now that other journals are adopting some of *Zootaxa*’s practices, competition for authors will increase. It appeared to be the consensus that the increase in *Zootaxa* publications was not at the expense of other journals, though I presented evidence (a few authors) who had dropped their membership in societies and no longer published in these journals. Other journals are coming online with no page costs, with Open Access (OA) and meeting ICZN publication/distribution requirements. I spoke in regards to the need for *Zootaxa* to evaluate its hardcopy production, possibly adopting a ICZN Code compliant distribution at a much lower cost. Will these new taxonomically oriented online journals erode *Zootaxa*’s growth was not openly discussed, but I suspect was on the mind of many.

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That *Zootaxa* was a topic of this ECN meeting underscores its importance to insect taxonomists. The quality of the publication was highly regarded and its continued success is in the best interest of insect taxonomists and others. Thus the discussions were presented in a constructive context.”