

## Editorial

# ***Insect Conservation and Diversity* – a new journal for the Royal Entomological Society**

SIMON R. LEATHER,<sup>1</sup> YVES BASSET<sup>2</sup> and BRADFORD A.

HAWKINS<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>Division of Biology, Imperial College London, Silwood Park Campus, Ascot, UK <sup>2</sup>Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Apartado 0843-03092, Balboa, Ancon, Panama City, Panama <sup>3</sup>Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA

In a move to promote arthropod conservation further, the Royal Entomological Society has launched *Insect Conservation and Diversity*. Our new journal explicitly associates the two concepts of insect diversity and insect conservation for the benefit of invertebrate conservation. The subject is vast, nearly as vast as global biodiversity, and there is ample opportunity to disseminate research that may also be published in excellent journals such as *Ecological Entomology*, *Journal of Insect Conservation* or *Environmental Entomology*, to name a few. But despite the existence of several entomologically oriented journals in which conservation related issues are addressed to varying degrees, insect conservation needs greater emphasis to rally the general scientific community to the viewpoints already held by many entomologists. In other words, we are in pressing need of a critical mass of arthropod conservation studies of high quality. Furthermore, fast dissemination of conservation research is essential in view of rapid anthropogenic loss and modification of habitats worldwide.

With *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, the Royal Entomological Society expands its series of international journals: *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*, *Ecological Entomology*, *Insect Molecular Biology*, *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*, *Physiological Entomology* and *Systematic Entomology*. The new journal has an emphasis on wild arthropods (as opposed to agricultural or pest insects treated in *Agricultural and Forest Entomology*) and on explicit relations between arthropod conservation and diversity (as opposed to the general ecological emphasis found in *Ecological Entomology*).

*Insect Conservation and Diversity* may be viewed as a platform to share and develop ideas pertaining to the conservation of insect diversity. Our new journal is keen to welcome submissions related to all aspects in this area, but in particular, those that

aid in understanding the past and present distribution of biodiversity, results of studies describing the implementation of suitable monitoring systems for arthropod populations, research identifying harmful factors influencing arthropod populations and their cascading effects on ecosystem services and seeking strategies to alleviate the action of harmful factors and restoring ecosystem services.

More generally, the journal is open to submissions within the area of interest of insect (and other arthropod) conservation and diversity, covering topics ranging from ecological theory to practical management. We look forward to seeing the development of these topics in the pages of this journal. Indeed, insect diversity may provide ample opportunities for biological conservation, but it is up to us, the entomologists, to drum home this important message. To aid this process, as well as providing a platform for standard research articles, we will host a *Debate and Comments* section, coordinated by Erica Fleishmann, to enable conservation biologists to concisely air their views and thoughts on topical issues in the area and stimulate appropriate discussion. In addition, we feel that it is important to draw particular issues in insect conservation to a more general audience. To that aim, Rob Ewers will be providing and soliciting short (one page) articles for the *Focus on . . .* section of *Insect Conservation and Diversity*.

On a practical level, our Editorial team has a truly international scope and covers the major taxonomic groupings. Our large team of dedicated and expert associate editors will ensure a rapid turnaround of manuscripts, with no loss in the rigour or fairness of our review process. There are no page charges associated with the journal and this will ensure equal access from all corners of the globe. We look forward to receiving your submissions. If you have any comments, queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the Editors or one of the members of the Editorial Board.