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EDITORIAL

An observation on the consequences of increased frequency of journal issues

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Systematic & Applied Acarology (SAA) was founded in 1996 and was published annually during the first ten years (1996–2005). In the last two years, the frequency of publication was increased to semi-annual in 2006 and quarterly in 2007 to reduce the publication lag so that accepted papers can be published more rapidly. Herein I will summarize the effect of such increased frequency on the number and type of papers published, the number and distributions of authors and the number of new mite taxa published in SAA over the last two years, in comparison with the pattern in 1996–2005 as summarized in Zhang (2005).

Number and type of papers

With the increase in frequency, the total number of pages were also increased and, on average, 251 pages were published per year during 2006–2007 (c.f. 202 pages per year during 1996–2005). The number of papers published was also increased, so was the length of papers (Table 1).

TABLE 1. A summary of papers published during 2006–2006 in comparison to those in 1996–2005 in *Systematic & Applied Acarology*.

Year	Number of papers of different types						Number of pages	
	Review	Editorial	Biochemistry, physiology, toxicology	Biology, ecology pest control	Systematics, morphology, evolution	Total	Total	Per paper
2006	0	0	0	5	23	28	248	8.6
2007	0	0	0	12	23	35	254	7.3
2006–2007 average	0	0	0	9.5	23	31.5	251.0	8.0
1996–2005 average	0.9	0.6	1.9	7.4	16.5	27.3	202.1	7.4

Number and distribution of authors

The number of authors each year increased by 30% during 2006–2007, compared to the 1996–2005 period (Table 2). International representation also increased; during 1996–2005, <12 countries (of 4.4 continents) were represented in each volume and authors from China were the majority in 90% of the volumes (although proportions of authors from China decreased from 78% in 1996 to 28% in 2005), but during 2006–2007, 18 countries from all continents were represented in each volume, with the top two countries being China (19%) and Iran (14%) in 2006 and India (20%) and USA (16%) in 2007.

Most of the papers in 2006–2007 were collaborative research by two or more authors, and among these 44.4% were written by authors from different countries, reflecting an increase by 41% in international collaboration over the period 1996–2005 (Table 2).

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TABLE 2. A summary of authors in *Systematic & Applied Acarology* during 1996–2007.

	Number of authors	Number of countries (continents)	Country of highest representation (%)	Number of single-authored papers	Number of multi-authored papers	Proportion of international collaborative papers*
2006	58	18 (6)	China (19)	8	20	35.0
2007	61	18 (6)	India (20)	9	26	53.8
2006–2007 average	69	18 (6)	-	8.5	23.0	44.4
1996–2005 average	53	11.8 (4.4)	-	5.1	20.8	31.4

* a / b, where a= number of multi-authored papers that have authors from different countries; b = number of multi-authored papers.

TABLE 3. A summary of new mite taxa published in *Systematic & Applied Acarology* during 1996–2007.

	Species-group	Genus-group	Family-group	Total
2006	32	3	0	35
2007	17	1	0	18
2006–2007 average	24.5	2.0	0	26.5
1996–2005 average	18.0	2.7	0.4	21.1

Number of new taxa described

The number of new taxa described per volume increased from 21.0 during 1996–2005 to 26.5 during 2006–2007 (Table 3).

Discussion

The increased numbers of papers, authors and new taxa are correlated with the increased number of pages published in the last two years compared to 1996–2005. However, it is very encouraging to see an increase in diversity of authors from different countries and also the increased degree of international collaboration in papers published in the last two years.

Since 2008, SAAS has formed an partnership with the Acarological Society of America to enable its members full access to the online edition of SAA at a reduced rate. This will likely increase the number of authors from the USA in SAA.

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