

## Editorial: Raffles Bulletin of Zoology goes fully electronic

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Welcome to the fully electronic revamped Raffles Bulletin of Zoology. The journal (RBZ) will continue to be a fully open-access peer-reviewed journal. All published articles in RBZ are available for download by any person with internet access completely free-of-charge. This continues to be in line with our policy of the dissemination of scientific information to as wide an audience as possible. The electronic journal will be published in one volume for the year, with sequential page numbering and a continuous style of publication. There will be no colour or page charges, but there is a 20-page limit (40 manuscript pages) per article (exceptions at the discretion of the Managing Editor). Hardcopy reprints will still be made available to respective author(s) at prevailing charges (black and white at S\$0.50 per page, colour at S\$1.00 per page). As per guidelines for electronic-only publications, Life Science Identifiers (LSID) obtainable upon registration with ZooBank is mandatory and will be an automatic service for articles published in RBZ.

The current geographic scope prevails: the RBZ will continue to accept manuscripts on fauna from within Southeast Asia. Papers on fauna from areas immediately adjacent or relevant to Southeast Asia (e.g., southern parts of China such as Yunnan or Hainan) or from drainages that are shared with Southeast Asia (e.g., Salween or Mekong) may, at the discretion of the Editors, be considered although priority will always be given to articles on Southeast Asian fauna.

Three main categories will be published for RBZ: i) Taxonomy and Systematics, ii) Conservation and Ecology, iii) Perspectives and Communications. The last category is a revival based on earlier invited papers and short communications highlighting critical opinions, new angles at biodiversity research, and notes of interest on rare fauna in Southeast Asia. However, papers consisting solely of redescriptions, checklists or new records will not be published, unless the Editors and/or Referees regard them as having exceptional interest.

The RBZ supplements will continue to be published (depending on the availability of funding)—29 have been

published to date (six numbers had been published during my tenure). Within the immediate past 13 months, an astonishing four supplements have been released. Supplements 26 and 27 are monographic works by renowned ichthyologist Maurice Kottelat (who is on the RBZ Editorial Board). Supplement 26 deals with a diverse group of freshwater loach fishes, found in Europe to Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia (Kottelat, 2012). In Supplement 26, Kottelat makes available three new genera: *Ambastaia* Kottelat, 2012, type species *Botia nigrolineata* Kottelat & Chu, 1987; *Speonectes* Kottelat, 2012, type species *Sundoreonectes tiomanensis* Kottelat, 1990; and *Theriodes* Kottelat, 2012, type species *Acanthophtalmus sandakanensis* Inger & Chin, 1962.

Supplement 27 lists the core bibliography (178 pages' worth) and catalogue of all known valid fish species (3108) known to occur in the inland waters of Southeast Asia, in a massive 663-page tome, culmination of more than a quarter century's effort and tireless research (Kottelat, 2013). A total of five new genera are made available: *Desmopuntius* Kottelat, 2013, type species *Barbus hexazona* Weber & de Beaufort, 1912; *Oliotius* Kottelat, 2013, type species *Capoeta oligolepis* Bleeker, 1853; *Puntigrus* Kottelat, 2013, type species *Barbus partipentazona* Fowler, 1934; *Siriuntius* Kottelat, 2013, type species *Barbus lineatus* Duncker, 1904; *Pao* Kottelat, 2013, type species *Tetraodon leiurus* Bleeker, 1850. These two supplements are must-haves for all serious ichthyologists and bibliographers.

The RBZ supplement 28 covers the proceedings of an important small carnivore symposium conducted in 2011 in Sabah, a total of eight articles covering methodology and advances in small mammal field research (Belant & Wilting, 2013). For supplement 29, a joyous occasion for honouring the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of Southeast Asia's Doyens for mammal and bird research—Gathorne Gathorne-Hardy 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Cranbrook (also more famously known as Lord of Medway); an article on his accomplishments and a compilation of 26 scholarly articles and essays (Davison et al., 2013). In supplement 29, two animals were named for the Earl, viz. a Sarawakian cave crab *Stygothelphusa cranbrookii* Ng, 2013; and a Himalayan shrew *Crocidura gathornei* Jenkins, 2013.

The format of RBZ has also been fine-tuned and will hopefully allow authors and readers alike to more efficiently submit articles and extract information. For more detailed

information, please refer to <http://rmbr.nus.edu.sg/rbz/instructauthors.html>. See Literature Cited below for an actual working example.

At the recent conclusion of a extraordinary workshop for the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) conducted at the National University of Singapore, important issues were meted out and new objectives to modernise the Code and business plans to be implemented. The Secretariat for ICZN will now be based in Singapore (for the next three years). I am also happy to announce a new Associate Editor for RBZ, Martyn Low Ern Yee, who will manage a new post for nomenclature and bibliography, simultaneously.

A huge thank you to the very capable copy editing prowess of both Hazelina Yeo and Jeremy Yeo, and for assisting in the coordination of running this venerable journal—Raffles Bulletin of Zoology.

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