

Editorial: Raffles Bulletin of Zoology – Fully electronic for one year and what’s ahead

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Time flies! Welcome to 2015 and this will be the fifth year I am helming RBZ and it has been full of ups and downs. The journal has gone fully electronic for one year but hiccups still persist, however the going should be smoother from here forth till the handing over to a new Managing Editor (hopefully).

A huge apology to the authors who had suffered delays as it had also been a tough year juggling the museum move into new facilities (which coincidentally I am part of), coping with typesetter replacement and other duties. The new Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum will be officially open in April 2015, so stay tuned.

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. As per guidelines for electronic-only publications, Life Science Identifiers (LSID) obtainable upon registration with ZooBank (<http://zoobank.org/>) is mandatory and will be an automatic service for articles published in RBZ.

The current geographic scope prevails: the RBZ will only accept manuscripts on fauna from **within** SOUTHEAST ASIA.

Three main categories will be published for RBZ: i) Taxonomy and Systematics, ii) Conservation and Ecology, iii) Perspectives and Communications. Papers consisting solely of re-descriptions, checklists or new records will not be published, unless the Editors regard them as having exceptional interest (see Tan, 2014, for more details).

The format of RBZ has had been streamlined and the new instructions are available here: <http://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/nus/index.php/instructions>. There is a compulsory manuscript submission form to accompany all entries, electronic submission form available here: http://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/nus/images/data/raffles_bulletin_of_zoology/RBZsubform.pdf.

Thank you to all contributors for adhering to the new format and filling in the form.

The year 2014 had been fruitful, with the publication of 24 articles for Ecology and Conservation, 40 articles for Taxonomy and Systematics, 1 article for Communications and 3 for others (a total of 68 articles). Sixty-seven new species had been made available (top 3 taxa: 38 for Crustacea, 10 for Mollusca and 7 for Pisces) (<http://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/nus/index.php/62>). A good showing for a small journal specialising on Southeast Asian fauna only. The current ISI index stands at 0.909 (2013), an improvement over its last standing.

The Special Supplement no. 30 on Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands was released on 25 December 2014 (Christmas Day - coincidence intended) covering 35 articles and making available 4 new crustacean species, viz. *Discoplax magna* Ng & Shih, 2014; *Eucalliax inaequimana* Dworschak, 2014; *Pseudosquillissima tweediei* Ah Yong, 2014; *Christmaplax mirabilis* Naruse & Ng, 2014 (new family, new genus and new species); and numerous articles pertaining to the biodiversity of these isolated oceanic islands in the eastern Indian Ocean (see Tan et al., 2014) (<http://lkcnhm.nus.edu.sg/nus/index.php/supplements/12-research/research-publications/255-rbzs supplement-no-30>).

Supplement no. 30 is thus far the seventh supplement under my tenure but there is more to come. Soon to be online is Supplement no. 31 edited by Tan Koh Siang (TMSI), publishing the results of the first Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey of Singapore, conducted along the Johor Straits at Pulau Ubin in 2012. There will also be a follow up supplement (date to be confirmed) on the second Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey of Singapore, conducted along the Singapore Straits at St. John’s Island in 2013. Other supplements are still under wraps at the moment.

A huge thank you to all contributors, reviewers and the Editorial Team of RBZ (John Ascher, Marcus Chua, Kevin Conway, Hwang Wei Song, Zeehan Jaafar, Sebastian Klaus, Jeffrey Kwik, Leong Tzi Ming, Li Daiqin, Norman Lim, Martyn Low, Rudolf Meier, Jose C. Mendoza, Tohru Naruse, James Reimer, Frank Rheindt, Tan Koh Siang, Tan Siong Kiat, Peter Todd, Tran Anh Duc and Darren Yeo) and highly efficient Copy Editor (Jeremy Yeo), Administrative Assistant

(Greasi Simon) and Web Master (Chua Keng Soon), for making the transition to a fully electronic journal possible. The Senior Copy Editor (Hazelina Yeo) has left the service but had capably assisted with the editorial work of Supplement no. 30 on a part-time basis (a Huge Thank You!).

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce a new Associate Editor – Huang Danwei, whose expertise is on the evolution of coral reef invertebrates and he is currently based at the Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore. Welcome aboard!

Though RBZ has gone fully electronic, I will still miss the nostalgic feel of paper issues and smell of old books; and not having the need to switch on an electronic viewing device to read a Portable Document Format file.

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