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EDITORIAL

My first year as Editor-in-Chief has passed rapidly. A very large number of papers has been submitted and processed. This is a very encouraging sign of the strength and diversity of the entomological research being done around the world which contributes to the reputation of the *Bulletin of Entomological Research*. I am very grateful to the Executive Editor, John Badmin, the Editorial Board and the many referees for their continued dedication to the *Bulletin*.

During the year, considerable efforts have been devoted to an examination of our procedures to establish whether there are opportunities for reducing the time taken from the submission of a paper to the Editorial Office to its publication in the *Bulletin of Entomological Research*. As a research scientist one is always looking for a rapid publication process to see the fruits of ones research in press. I am determined that the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* should deliver efficient and rapid publication. Some procedures have been refined with the result that from now on the time to publication will be a little shorter. However, this time does depend on authors responding rapidly and in full to the comments of referees and the recommendations of the Editor-in-Chief when the paper is returned to the *Bulletin of Entomological Research*.

There is a continuing flow of high quality papers. Unfortunately, there is a limit to the number of pages that can be published each year. It is therefore only possible to publish those papers of the highest quality. With this in mind, it is important that authors are clear on the type of papers that are being sought for publication in the *Bulletin of Entomological Research*. Papers should take forward our knowledge of entomology in its broadest sense. The findings from research should be generalized to assist the cross fertilization of ideas between sub-disciplines of entomology (e.g. medical, agricultural, forestry, urban, stored products, etc.) rather than be yet another exception. To achieve this, the approach to the research being reported needs to be one of hypothesis testing and should result in the presentation of new information or interpretations. The reporting of what might broadly be termed 'spray trials' where insect *a* is controlled by chemical *b* is not appropriate for the *Bulletin of Entomological Research*.

In volume 87 were published some interesting examples of where studies on very different species of insects and sub-disciplines of entomology are contributing collectively to our understanding of insect populations. Isoenzymes, RAPD-PCR, mitochondrial DNA and hypervariable DNA markers (microsatellites) have all been used to examine the structure of the populations of insects as diverse as ticks, parasitic Hymenoptera, blowflies, aphids and moths. There is now real evidence that different genotypes occur in different habitats and that selection is operating to establish and maintain these distributions. This knowledge will have a significant impact on the research done by applied entomologists in years to come as humans manipulate insect populations to preserve supplies of food and raw materials, prevent the transmission of disease and avoid nuisance.

In volume 88 will be published a supplement to the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* on resistance to insecticides in the house fly by Dr Keiding from Denmark. This will be a significant contribution to this subject and is eagerly awaited. I am also seeking ways to achieve the publication of findings of entomological research in a variety of different forms. Attention is being given actively to the publication of authoritative reviews and perspectives in entomology, though the main form of publication in the *Bulletin of Entomological Research* will continue to be the high quality research paper.

Mark Tatchell