

EDITOR'S REPORT

Volume 33 of the British Journal of Entomology and Natural History was published in four parts in March, July and October 2020, with December's issue appearing in January 2021 in order to include upcoming AGM notices. Volume length has continued to increase over the previous year, with the journal achieving 400 pages for the very first time. This milestone is quite remarkable when I consider the average volume length in the period before I took over editorship in 2002 was <200 pages. So far, the only downside is the realisation that the journal no longer fits inside my standard binder.

Thirty-three major papers including nine on insect species new to Britain, 28 short notes and 12 field meeting reports were published during the year, together with the usual Council and Annual Exhibition reports. The majority of papers were on Hymenoptera (34%), Hemiptera (15%) and Lepidoptera (12%) but fortuitously all the major orders were covered with additional papers on insect surveying and analysis (5), earwigs (3), thrips (2) springtails (2) and gryllids (1). There were 21 book reviews well above the recent average.

The preponderance of articles on Hymenoptera and Hemiptera today is in sharp contrast to the results of a similar study carried out by editor Richard Jones in 1991, when 43% of published articles were on Lepidoptera, with Diptera (22%) and Coleoptera (22%) tying for second place - both these taxa groups of course now have their own specific journal. It seems the strength of our Society's journal lies in its complete coverage of the British insect fauna and its large readership (just below 1000) as well as the availability of our insect collections at Dinton Pastures.

The official recorders for the 2019 Annual Exhibition as reported in the journal require thanking, namely Sean Clancy (British Macrolepidoptera), Stella Beavan (British Microlepidoptera), Colin Plant (Overseas Lepidoptera), Peter Chandler (Diptera), Roger Booth (Coleoptera), Andrew Halstead (Hymenoptera) and Tristan Bantock (Hemiptera). Alec Harmer and David Wilson also require special thanks for preparing high quality Exhibition plates.

I also wish to thank our proof readers: Jolyon Alderman, Les Evans-Hill, Tony Galsworthy, Adrian Knowles and Darren Mann for last-minute proof reading. Special thanks go to Roger Hawkins and co-compilers, Martin Albertini, John Flynn, Peter Chandler and Norman Hall for the painstaking task of compiling the Index to Volume 32 (2019). Thanks also to the editorial team and many other colleagues who offered their services as referees for the journal.

This is the first full year of using Swallowtail Print as our printing company and I am pleased to report that the service and final product have been first rate, even during the difficult period of national lockdown when normal business almost came to a standstill. I have always been able to obtain helpful advice from somebody whenever I phone up, even from high up in management.

As previously raised, the fidelity of colour reproduction is a complex issue (between what the author, the editor and printer see on their different computer screens and the final printed version) and I have informed members that certain articles and colour plates in the journal really do look better on screen as pdfs (that you can request from an author) than in the journal itself. This way you also have the benefit of being able to enlarge images to whatever size you wish to examine insects in greater detail. Roger Hawkins has kindly looked back through past issues of the journal over a reasonable time period, and it seems, fingers crossed, that the problem was probably associated more with our previous printer than any other particular single factor. Of course, authors have prime responsibility for checking the quality of their own papers.

I am reasonably happy with the amount of material coming in at present and look forward to receiving more articles during the year ahead. This may prove to be a difficult year for the journal, especially later on, as there will be no previous year's Field Meeting reports to include, which usually form a significant part of the journal. Perhaps members might wish to report their very own field meeting(s), however small, from 2020 or 2021 to compensate.

I am often asked about whether or when the Society might publish its main journal in electronic format. Technically it is quite simple. It already exists. You may be interested to learn that our sister society, the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland ceased publication of its hard copy *New Journal of Botany* at the end of 2017 and launched an on-line scientific journal, *British & Irish Botany* in 2019, encompassing all aspects on research on the vascular plants and charophytes (stoneworts) of Britain and Ireland. Just this month, 'as a convenience to BSBI members it has been agreed to reproduce abstracts of all the published papers to date in the hard copy *BSBI Yearbook*'.

JOHN BADMIN