



Ave atque vale

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Taxonomic botany is probably the last discipline that still publishes descriptions in Latin. This has a very long tradition, dating back to the first herbals from the 15th Century (Arber 1938), but times changed and English became a more widespread language in science. In botany a Latin diagnosis to validate the name only became a requirement in 1953. For decades it has been suggested that this requirement should be abolished, because most botanists are no longer fluent in Latin and many published Latin diagnoses were of poor quality or incomprehensible. However, it was not until this year that the International Botanical Congress in Melbourne, Australia changed the requirements for valid publication to allow diagnoses in English instead (Knapp *et al.* 2011). A diagnosis will still be needed next to the description of the new taxon, but because Latin is no longer required, we forecast an increase in new species descriptions in the New Year. Many taxonomists are not fluent in Latin and therefore researchers may have waited to submit descriptions of their new taxa until 2012. We welcome these new manuscripts and will do our best to accommodate them.

The end of the year is approaching, which is a good opportunity for us to inform our readers about the progress and future of *Phytotaxa*. Since the launch of *Phytotaxa* in 2009, 38 volumes with 212 papers have been published of which 144 are original articles. In 2011 the number of volumes increased by 100% (Table 1). This is of course due to an increase in submissions of high quality papers, which may be a result of the indexing in SCIE, JCR and Biosis. We are expecting our first impact factor next year, which will hopefully result in an even greater increase in number and quality of submitted papers.

Currently the longest paper is the checklist for familial and suprafamilial names of extant vascular plants, probably better known as the *Index Nominum Supragenericorum*, which runs to 404 pages (Reveal 2010), but on average papers are 18 pages long. Almost half (just over 45%) of papers are Open Access, and the number of citations has increased by a staggering 443% (Table 1). This means that *Phytotaxa* is well-read in the discipline and

TABLE 1. Growth of *Phytotaxa* from 2009 to 2011 (launched in October 2009 and thus only two months in 2009).

	2009	2010	2011	Total
Number of volumes	2	12	24	38
Number of pages	116	1677	2143	3936
Number of pages per volume (average)	58	140	89	-
Number of papers	19	76	117	212
Number of articles	10	52	82	144
Number of correspondence	5	9	5	19
Number of editorials	3	9	20	32
Number of book reviews	1	0	0	1
Number of monographs	0	6	8	14
Number of corrections	0	0	2	2
Number of pages per paper (average)	6	22	18	-
Number of open access papers	6	34	53	93
Proportion of the total	31.6%	44.7%	45.3%	-
Number of citations*	1	23	102	126

* From Science Citation Index (data of 9 Dec. 2011)

its online interface is well used. Of course we should aim for a higher number of Open Access papers, and authors are strongly encouraged to opt for this when their finances allow it. Open Access papers have a significantly higher citation and download rate than regular papers (Tables 2 and 3).

TABLE 2. Top 10 most-accessed papers*

Times accessed	Sources	Title
182,793	Henderson (2011) 17: 1–271	A revision of <i>Geonoma</i> (Arecaceae)
90,797	Lumbsch <i>et al.</i> (2011) 18: 1–127	One hundred new species of lichenized fungi: a signature of undiscovered global diversity
18,138	Christenhusz <i>et al.</i> (2011b) 19: 7–54	A linear sequence of extant families and genera of lycophytes and ferns
15,300	Reveal & Chase (2010) 19: 71–134	APG III: bibliographical information and synonymy of Magnoliidae
12,474	Christenhusz <i>et al.</i> (2011c) 19: 55–70	A new classification and linear sequence of extant gymnosperms
7,540	Cox <i>et al.</i> (2010) 9: 175–195	Moss diversity: a molecular phylogenetic analysis of genera
7,459	Pressel <i>et al.</i> (2010) 9: 238–253	Fungal symbioses in bryophytes: new insights in the Twenty First Century
6,928	Peña-Chocarro <i>et al.</i> (2010) 12: 1–224	Updated checklist of vascular plants of the Mbaracayú Forest Nature Reserve (Reserva Natural del Bosque Mbaracayú), Paraguay
6,579	Stech & Quandt (2010) 9: 196–228	20,000 species and five key markers: the status of molecular bryophyte phylogenetics
6,369	Váňa <i>et al.</i> (2010) 11: 1–80	Early land plants today: taxonomy, systematics and nomenclature of Gymnomitriaceae

*Number of full article downloads in 2011 (until 9 Dec. 2011).

TABLE 3. Top 10 most-cited papers*.

Times cited	Sources	Title
8	Cox <i>et al.</i> (2010) 9: 175–195	Moss diversity: a molecular phylogenetic analysis of genera
7	Christenhusz (2009) 1: 37–42	New combinations and an overview of <i>Cyathea</i> subg. <i>Hymenophyllopsis</i> (Cyatheaceae)
7	Pressel <i>et al.</i> (2010) 9: 238–253	Fungal symbioses in bryophytes: new insights in the Twenty First Century
6	Stech & Quandt (2010) 9: 196–228	20,000 species and five key markers: the status of molecular bryophyte phylogenetics
5	Lehnert (2009) 1: 43–56	Three new species of scaly tree ferns (<i>Cyathea</i> -Cyatheaceae) from the northern Andes
4	Christenhusz <i>et al.</i> (2011b) 19: 7–54	A linear sequence of extant families and genera of lycophytes and ferns
4	Vanderpoorten & Shaw (2010) 9: 229–237	The application of molecular data to the phylogenetic delimitation of species in bryophytes: A note of caution
4	Villarreal <i>et al.</i> (2010) 9: 150–166	A synthesis of hornwort diversity: patterns, causes and future work
4	Von Konrat <i>et al.</i> (2010) 9: 22–40	Early Land Plants Today (ELPT): how many liverwort species are there?
4	Caruzo <i>et al.</i> (2010) 3: 27–33	A new species of <i>Croton</i> section <i>Cleodora</i> (Euphorbiaceae <i>s.s.</i>) from Minas Gerais, Brazil

* From Science Citation Index (data of 12 Dec. 2011).

Phytotaxa has published six papers on fungi and lichens (including a large collaborative paper describing 100 new lichen species, Lumbsch *et al.* 2011), nine papers on algae (including one fossil taxon, Saito-Kato *et al.* 2011), 12 papers on ferns, two on gymnosperms, four on magnoliids (all on Annonaceae), 35 on monocots and 76 on eudicots. The linear sequence volume of Christenhusz *et al.* (2011a), in which new classifications of ferns and gymnosperms were proposed, was well-received, and based on the constructive criticism and comments from readers I believe that these may receive some following in the future.

Algae and fungi have not yet featured much in *Phytotaxa*, but in the last year the numbers of papers have been growing and we hope this steady growth will continue. Bryophytes featured in a series of papers due to the collaboration with the Early Land Plants Today (ELPT) project (*Phytotaxa* volumes 9 and 11). We hope this will lead to the submission of additional papers concerning hornworts, liverworts and mosses. Ferns have been represented since the first volume of *Phytotaxa*, and we have since published three new families, one new genus and 125 new taxa. The majority of papers focused on the tree fern family Cyatheaceae.

Monocots were dominated by a few families, most notably Orchidaceae (with nine papers), not surprising perhaps considering it being the largest family of flowering plants. These were followed by Arecaceae (eight papers) and Bromeliaceae (six papers), both including some large monographs. We also published four papers concerning the rather small family Eriocaulaceae which is diverse in Brazil and this reflects the popularity of *Phytotaxa* in that country.

Despite the large number of papers in eudicots, there are no families that are remarkably more frequent than others. Most papers concerned Asteraceae (seven), followed by Fabaceae and Malvaceae (five papers each) and Gesneriaceae, Rubiaceae and Urticaceae (with four papers each). This somewhat reflects the activities of our editors, who may have suggested *Phytotaxa* to colleagues.

In total we published five new families, six new genera, 337 new species (incl. *nom. nov.*), 37 new taxa at subspecific levels, and 340 new combinations. Currently there are 595 entries in the *International Plant Name Index* (www.ipni.org), but this includes only vascular plants and the latest issues have not yet been included. This achievement for such a young journal is all due to our excellent editors, who are giving their time and expertise to evaluate, review and edit papers. These great statistics are the result of the collaborative effort and enthusiasm of all authors, reviewers and editors who contributed to the journal.

In 2012 there will be a number of changes to the format of *Phytotaxa*. Because of changes to the *Nomenclatural Code for algae, fungi and plants*, papers will appear immediately online, since printing is no longer needed to validate the name. Printed issues will still be sent to subscribers, but these will be bundled in larger volumes.

After initiating and editing the journal for two and a half years, Maarten Christenhusz will resign as chief editor for *Phytotaxa* as of 1 January 2012, but he will remain an active editor for the journal. We are still welcoming researchers to our editorial board, so if you think you could contribute feel free to inquire. General questions should be addressed to the managing editor. We thank Michael Fay of RBG Kew for reviewing and editing this editorial.

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