

EDITORIAL

A long and illustrious history makes *Cryptogamie, Algologie* one of the oldest phycological journals still in existence, if not the oldest. Born in 1924 under the name of *Revue Algologique* thanks to the joint efforts of Pierre Allorge and Gontran Hamel, it remained in production until 1941. It re-appeared in 1954 as *Revue Algologique (2^e Série)* thanks to Pierre Bourrelly and Robert Lami, and took its present name in 1980 when the newly founded *Association des Amis des Cryptogames* (ADAC) took on the rôle of publisher.

It is now an honour for me to have been offered – and a great pleasure to have accepted – the post of new Editor-in-Chief of *Cryptogamie, Algologie* as from this issue, following John Huisman's decision to retire from this position towards the end of 2007.

John's editorial contribution to this journal started some nine years ago with his appointment to the Associate Editorship for marine algae in 1999. In 2000 he became co-Editor-in-Chief with Bruno de Reviers and then in 2002 he took on this rôle fully. His services to the journal have been unrelenting, and working with him as an Associate Editor (a position I have covered since 1998) has always been a very fruitful experience and a great pleasure too. I am certain that the phycological community will want to join me in expressing a warm word of thanks to John for all of his efforts and the amount of time he has devoted to this journal.

There is another retirement in addition to John's. David Williams has stepped down from his Associate Editorship owing to other work commitments. On behalf of the journal I would like to thank David for his very effective and productive input. Diana Sarno and Ian Probert have kindly accepted the positions of new Associate Editors. I would like to welcome Diana and Ian on board the team and wish them a productive and rewarding contribution to the journal's editorial work.

From the point of view of the day-to-day running of the journal's editorial affairs there are a few, slight changes on the horizon which I trust will be very beneficial and well received by everyone.

The first change is that authors are now required to submit manuscripts directly to me in the first instance. This is for two reasons. On the one hand, I think it fair that the workload on individual Associate Editors should be spread as equally as possible. On the other hand I would like to ensure a more even distribution of paper topics in the various areas of specialism. (I should emphasize here that the subject area of *Cryptogamie, Algologie* includes *all* aspects of scientific research on algae and related algal-like protists. In recent years there has been a shift towards floristically and taxonomically-oriented papers. Although the continuation of these topics will be ensured, more submissions in research areas which are not heavily represented at the moment in the journal will be most welcome).

The second change is that the composition of the board of Associate Editors is envisaged to expand and change more rapidly than it does now. This is because research is now progressing at such a pace that the range of expertise required from an editorial board of a specialized journal needs to be as wide as possible.

The third change is that *Cryptogamie, Algologie* will consider proposals for Mini-Reviews on specific topics of specialized interest. Potentially interested authors are encouraged to write to me describing the proposed topic, its justification and likely length of the manuscript. The journal will still continue to

publish Invited Reviews on wider issues of general interest in our field; typically they will be longer than Mini-Reviews and, ideally, contain new working hypotheses in addition to providing comprehensive and authoritative reviews of the subject at hand.

As newly appointed Editor-in-Chief I am faced with the challenging task of leading a journal with such a distinguished history and tradition. I would like to thank the ADAC for giving me this opportunity, and also the authors, the Production Editor, all the Associate Editors and – last but not least – the readership for their continuing support for this journal. Long live *Cryptogamie*, *Algologie*!

Gianfranco Novarino