

EDITORIAL

## Centenary of the journal *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae*

It is hard to believe that it has been 100 years since the first volume of *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* was printed back in 1923. It was a rather sad beginning, though. The very first article of the first volume was called ‘In memoriam Nickerl’ and was commemorating the Nickerl entomological dynasty: grandfather, František Antonín (1813–1871), father, Ottokar Sr. (1838–1920), and son, Ottokar Jr. (1873–1904). When Ottokar Nickerl Sr. died as the last member of his family, he bequeathed his entire entomological collection, library and also the proceeds from the sale of his house in Prague to the National Museum. It was from his financial legacy that the ‘Nickerl Fund’ was established in 1922 and used to finance further development of the entomological collections and the library in the following years. An important tool in this effort was publication of a specialized journal, *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* (AEMNP), intended for publication of results of the processing of materials from the collections of the National Museum as well as for international journal exchange. The first editor of AEMNP was Jan Obenberger (1892–1964), later the long-time head of the Zoological Department of the National Museum and the first professor of entomology in Czechoslovakia. Under his leadership, the magazine was published regularly, survived the hardships of the German occupation during the World War II (1939–1945) and continued until 1947, always with the dedication ‘In memoriam Nickerl’.

After the communist coup in 1948, the Nickerl Fund was revoked and the publication of AEMNP was financed from the budget of the National Museum as a journal of the newly established Department of Entomology. After the short break in 1948–1951, the journal continued under the leadership of Ludvík Hoberlandt (editor-in-chief 26/1952–44/1997) and appeared nearly every year in the 1950s, and later every 2–3 years until 1970. In 1951, a supplementary series of monographs (*Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae, Supplementum*) was established, bringing together eleven volumes (the last one in 2007). Moreover, two parallel series, *Acta Faunistica Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* and

*Acta Faunistica Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae, Supplementum* (editor-in-chief Jiří Zahradník, followed by Jiří Dlabola), were issued between 1956 and 1989, with 19 regular volumes and four supplements published. Unfortunately, in the 1970s and 1980s, the situation became difficult, and all four journals of the Department of Entomology were published irregularly with several years’ breaks between volumes.

In the period of fundamental democratic social changes after November 1989, there were austerity measures and subsequent changes in the editorial policy, due to which the AEMNP journal ceased to be an official publication of the National Museum. The Department of Entomology had to continue to cover publication costs from its own limited funds coming from sponsors and grants, and therefore, only one regular volume (44/1997) and two supplements (9/1999, 10/2002) were published in this period.

The improved financial situation made it possible to renew the journal in 2005, when a new editorial team took over its publication. In 2008, all the journal titles published by the Department of Entomology were formally merged and the AEMNP started to be published in two regular issues each year, accompanied by irregular supplements. From 2009, AEMNP has been included in the Web of Science, receiving its first impact factor in 2012. Finally, in 2018, the journal changed its format to A4, and the papers are published on-line first with the appropriate ZooBank registration to make the nomenclatural acts available from the on-line publication. Despite this the journal continues to print the complete issues on paper for the purpose of long-time archivation and interlibrary journal exchange. In 1923–2022, AEMNP published 78 regular issues and 20 supplements, which means that the volume 63 (2) in 2023 will be the hundredth.

Our contribution to the study of insect biodiversity between 2005 and 2022 was represented by 813 papers covering 14,525 pages, describing 6 new family-group names, 167 new genera and subgenera, and 1560 new species and subspecies. We hope that this mission of our magazine will continue in its next hundred years.

Petr Kment  
editor-in-chief



