

EDITORIAL

Throughout the 36-year period of its publication *The Lichenologist* has attracted large numbers of high quality manuscripts from all parts of the world. Unfortunately, the consequence of any increase in manuscript submission rate means that either the acceptance standard is artificially increased, in order to limit the number of articles published each year, or additional delays occur between manuscript acceptance and their final appearance in print. As the size of the journal is related to the income of the British Lichen Society, there has been little scope for variations in the number of pages published each year. On some occasions authors have obtained grants that have helped to defray publication costs, thereby temporarily increasing the size of the journal. None of these circumstances have been entirely acceptable to the authors, readers, publishers and editors. The British Lichen Society Council has judged that, with a recent change in the subscription rate to the Society and a number of other increases in income, it is an opportune moment to increase the publication frequency and size of *The Lichenologist*. From January 1995 six 80-page issues of *The Lichenologist* will be published each year.

With considerable demand for space within *The Lichenologist* it is perhaps appropriate to remind potential authors to produce manuscripts that are both brief and to the point, as well as being sufficiently detailed to enable the reader to reproduce the results reported or to comprehend how the conclusions were reached. For this reason the editors now ask authors of taxonomic and morphological articles to keep the citation of specimens examined to a minimum. The full format, quoted in the instructions to authors, should be limited to citations of new taxa or when the full data are essential for the arguments presented. Wherever possible, citation of herbarium specimens should be limited to just sufficient detail to enable the specimen to be relocated for further study, for example, by quoting country of origin, year of collection, collector and collection number, and herbarium abbreviation. Where many specimens have been studied, distribution maps may be adequate, coupled with stating where full lists of the specimens cited have been deposited. Authors of taxonomic studies are also requested to explicitly state the methods used for chemical analysis, sample preparation for microscopy, and the numbers of thalli, reproductive structures and propagules analysed before reporting their dimensions. Ecological and physiological studies must include sufficient information to outline the techniques employed and cite appropriate references giving fuller details of the procedures involved.

The Editors hope that the present changes will encourage even more authors to submit manuscripts to *The Lichenologist* and that they will find the Editors and referees provide positive and helpful comments in order to maintain the present high standards. Publication is normally in the order of acceptance dates. However, in the interests of creating balanced and varied issues, long articles may become somewhat delayed. Wherever possible, authors are encouraged to consider the Short Communication format for many brief articles. Because the Senior Editor attempts to completely fill each

issue, this format can lead to earlier publication if space becomes available. The above comments must not be taken, however, to imply that only short manuscripts will be considered. We are always pleased to publish, for example, major taxonomic works that conform to the most economical style of presentation.

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