

Editorial

The *New Phytologist* Forum

New Phytologist has, throughout its history, been a forum for open debate – indeed, in his opening editorial (1902), Tansley referred to ‘easy communication and discussion’ as being the main ideas for the journal launch. The Internet now offers exciting new ways for sharing information, and this has challenged all information providers to reassess what they offer. It is our intention that the new Forum section in the journal should formalize our standing commitment, and encourage serious dialogue – through scientific commentary, correspondence and opinion.

As the journal approaches its hundredth year, so the need for dialogue is stronger than ever. More and more science is published, making it harder, year on year, to keep abreast of important developments. Science is also global, making discussion confined to those within one country or economic bloc to be too restrictive. And as the pressure to publish is as strong as it has ever been, so the free flow of original and unorthodox ideas can too easily become stifled.

New Phytologist, as a high-impact, high-quality journal, with its international scope and fierce independence – the Trust is not answerable to any society or commercial publisher – is a respected vehicle for such material. We invite you to participate, and to join us in helping the Forum to develop.

JONATHAN INGRAM
Managing Editor