

Editorial

The European Ecological Federation decided in 1998 to launch a general, easily accessible, peer-reviewed ecology journal in its effort to enhance cooperation between ecologists from all over Europe. The EEF started an electronic journal, free of charge for an undetermined period of time, to enable ecologists to publish on its pages and to have access to all published material. Then an Editorial Office was set up, with the technical part linked to the Oikos Editorial Office in Lund, Sweden. This way their vast editorial experience was used to help establish the new publication. In November 2005 the EEF Board decided to restructure the Journal and appointed a new Editorial team, aiming to make WEB ECOLOGY a main reference in the field of Ecology.

Beginnings are always difficult, and it was not an exception for WEB ECOLOGY. Although considered an excellent idea, the initial enthusiasm slowly faded away and unfortunately the number of published papers decreased over time. However, the characteristics of a Journal like this make it an ideal outlet to quickly disseminate research results. As an on-line only journal it is not as limited as printed journals, because publication time does not depend on printing schedules, allowing for really short handling times that ensure rapid publication. As printing is no longer a cost, it may allow full color illustrations, making it more attractive to readers. Finally, its free contents will make it a test of current ideas on accessibility to science. Thus Web Ecology has a set of characteristics that would make it a prime choice for authors.

In the initial steps of this new period we invite ecologists all over Europe and elsewhere to submit their papers to WEB ECOLOGY, in our understanding that it will be a fast, reliable, and accessible way to publish their research results. We, as editors, will do our best to handle manuscripts and facilitate rapid review and publication processes, but are aware that the eventual success of WEB ECOLOGY depends on the response of the scientific community, which we already now did welcome this initiative.

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