

Editorial

***Et meminisse liceat* V “And let it be said”**

With this fifth ‘*Et meminisse liceat*’ (‘And let it be said’), volume 77 of the Bulletin of Insectology (BoI) comes to a close, and the next number will see the start of a new management with a change of publisher.

I would like to add a few thoughts on the history of the BoI already featured in the 90th anniversary issue “The 90 years of the Bulletin of Insectology”.

As mentioned on page 319 the invaluable contributor Davide Montanari, who has been responsible for the copy editing work over these years, will be retiring. Therefore, the difficulties in managing the BoI now make a change inevitable.

During these 24 years (i.e. since the beginning of the publication exclusively in English), a great deal of things have transformed. An increase in entomological science and related articles. An ever growing need to publish on the part of researchers who often subscribe to the famous catchphrase ‘publish or perish’ already discussed in the editorial of the 90-year anniversary of the BoI. And while around 20 years ago 1-2 manuscripts were received every month, recently at least twenty arrive!

The complexity of the field of entomology, if not evaluated by competent peer reviewers, can lead to papers being published with deficiencies and errors. Plagiarism is also possible and, unfortunately, the haste to have papers published in ‘impacted journals’ makes it imperative for publishers to pay the utmost attention. The topic does not only concern entomology and some journals referred to as ‘hybrid’ receive many manuscripts on scientific and naturalistic-environmental matters. The urgency to publish may sometimes be dictated by the need to justify research funds that have been allocated to the institution, or simply to acquire academic merit. However, there are many cases of journals with ‘impact factor’ that ‘let slip’ errors in both printing and content. I find this really hard to believe! For example, in one article of Environmental Science and Pollution Research (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-024-33256-3>), the *Rodolia* ladybird beetle was called ‘*Radiola*’, but the error was more than just a typo: *Rodolia cardinalis* actually feeds on *Icerya purchasi* and not on aphids as reported in Table 1. Moreover, again in the same article, pollinating insects such as Apoidea of the genus *Osmia* are listed as insecticides. The term ‘parasitoid’ is also spelled incorrectly, it is written as ‘parasiod’. This is, in any case, a content error because the pollinating insect in question is not a parasitoid. And among other things, ‘prestigious’ journals do not – except rarely – publish corrigenda.

It is quite likely that mistakes have also been made or overlooked in the BoI!

Errors in content, if not pointed out by careful peer reviewers, obviously remain the responsibility of the authors and not of the publishers.

In our own small framework, each article before being printed undergoes, in addition to the reviewers’ corrections and improvements, a proofreading by the typing editor and myself. And the references are reviewed and corrected one by one. This is the reason why no more than about forty articles are published per volume.

The contribution of the reviewers has been crucial and I believe this has contributed to the success of the BoI.

Generally, the requests of the authors who submit manuscripts regard the publication time. The hurry to get an article published in a journal with an impact factor is quite evident and of primary importance. And then comes the question about the cost of publication. Unfortunately, what sometimes seems to slip into second place is the matter of originality, seriousness of data, in short, scientific relevance.

In some cases, due to the exaggerated pressure to publish, authors may run the risk of submitting manuscripts to so-called predatory journals. Another exaggeration produced by haste is the placing of articles online as pre-prints in repositories. The BoI, in this regard, was immediately opposed to receiving manuscripts already present in permanent preprint repositories, where the very urgency leads to the skipping of any peer review.

A final point that we executive editors of the BoI have recently considered is the possibility of discontinuing the printed edition for future publications. The Agricultural Library ‘Gabriele Goidanich’ of the University of Bologna does, however, have a valid reason to maintain the free exchange with other printed journals that are currently still being produced, as well as possible online editions.

The executive editors have asked me to continue as director and I will gladly try to fulfil this task. I started way back in 1998 with the then existing *Bollettino dell’Istituto di Entomologia ‘Guido Grandi’ dell’Università di Bologna* in Italian (vol. 52), after which I moved on to the BoI in 2000 (vol. 55) and until the present day.

I hope that some young person, also thanks to the collaboration of the new publisher, will develop the interest and the will to become managing director of the BoI as soon as possible! As Giorgio Celli wrote in *Et meminisse liceat* IV, our goal is to always improve! “I therefore hope that the new golden age that I trust will come about, due to the contribution of the young lions, will be driven not only by the cult of modernity, but by the memory of one’s roots.”

Stefano MAINI

Links to the previous ‘*Et meminisse liceat*’ editorials in Italian:

Et meminisse liceat - Guido Grandi - <http://www.bulletinofinsectology.org/pdfarticles/vol15-1944-46-000VII-000XIgrandi.pdf>

Et meminisse liceat II - Guido Grandi - <http://www.bulletinofinsectology.org/pdfarticles/vol23-1959-000I-000XIVgrandi.pdf>

Et meminisse liceat III - Egidio Mellini - <http://www.bulletinofinsectology.org/pdfarticles/vol50-1996-001-004editoriale-mellini.pdf>

Editoriale - *Et meminisse liceat* IV - Piero Baronio, Giorgio Celli -

<http://www.bulletinofinsectology.org/pdfarticles/vol54-2000-000V-000XIIeditoriale-maini-baronio-celli.pdf>