

Editorial

Dear Readers,

Now entering our 46th publication year, we must unfortunately open this editorial on sad news. Eugène Angelier, founder of *Annales de Limnologie*, died aged 86 on November 17, 2011. Angelier was not only a pioneer of Limnology, but he also opened the discipline to modern ecology and to many other areas of complex systems science, and inspired generations of students and colleagues over decades. During his last days, he was Emeritus Professor at the University of Toulouse. He was also an active book writer, with “*Ecology of streams and rivers*” (2000) and “*Les sciences de la complexité et le vivant*” (2008) perfectly illustrating his integrative vision of natural sciences. While his passing has left his colleagues deeply saddened, he will remain a source of enthusiasm and inspiration. We will publish a more detailed homage during the course of the year with contributions by colleagues and former students. Angelier was also discreetly attentive to the development of the journal; we – as Editors and Board members – will be keen on further promoting *Annales de Limnologie - International Journal of Limnology* in the future.

Thanks to the support of EDP Sciences and Cambridge University Press, the journal further increased its coverage in 2011. Our usage statistics show that papers were downloaded by institutions in more than 170 countries, representing all continents. As a probable consequence of higher visibility, we faced an unprecedented increase of submissions in 2011. Inevitably, competition to publish in the journal was thus increasingly severe. Our rejection rate reached 70% (against 60% in 2010), but at the same time we increased the number of published papers by 40%. As we hope to keep increasing both the number and quality of published articles in future, we recognize the need to speed up our review and publication process, in the context of ever increasing editorial work. In agreement with our Publishers, we will also inaugurate editorial novelties that will greatly benefit to readers and authors. At the onset of 2012, we are therefore pleased to introduce the following new developments for *Annales de Limnologie - International Journal of Limnology*:

Editors – The journal will now have three Editors (rather than a single Editor-in-Chief) who specialize in distinct areas of Limnology. Prof. Pascal Laffaille (Institut National Polytechnique, population biology, applied

limnology) and Dr José-Miguel Sánchez-Pérez (French National Center for Scientific Research, biogeochemistry, abiotic environment) will share the responsibility of the decision-making chain with Prof. Régis Céréghino (community-ecosystem-level limnology). By enhancing the scope represented by the Editors and by dispatching submissions among more focused Editors, we hope to speed up evaluations, from the opportunity to send manuscripts to external reviewers to conditional acceptance, acceptance or rejection. Authors will be given the possibility to choose their handling Editor upon submission, while Editors are expected to provide authors with more constructive and explicit decisions. New Associate Editors and Editorial Board members will be solicited during the year, further strengthening our ambition to serve submitting authors.

Faster publication of accepted papers – In 2012, we will inaugurate *Open Issues*, where accepted papers are progressively published online with their *digital object identifier* (doi) and page range as soon as proofs have been corrected. Each issue will thus build progressively online. Once an *Open Issue* is completed, the print issue will be released by the Production Department. This will considerably shorten the delay between acceptance and publication papers in their final form.

Highlights and Editors' Choice – We will now ask authors of accepted papers to provide us with a 300 characters *highlight* (3–4 lines) that describes the key findings of their study and their contribution to freshwater science. Highlights will be published in the online table of contents, along with the article title and list of authors. This will help readers to quickly identify those papers that are relevant to their research. *Editors' Choice* will consist of the selection of one particularly interesting paper per issue and making it available to all readers through *Open Access* publication (without charging the authors). Both readers and authors should thus benefit from *Editors' Choice*. We anticipate that priority will be given to those studies that transcend boundaries of biological models and/or deal with hot topics related to, for example, biodiversity–ecosystem function relationships, impacts of anthropogenic climate change, biological invasions, biological interactions and frameworks for management actions or legislation. Short reviews will be given priority, but original research papers will be welcome too.

Since the journal was founded by Eugène Angelier in 1965, the successive Editors of *Annales de Limnologie - International Journal of Limnology* have continuously searched to strengthen and cultivate its international visibility. We have already entered an era of fast changes in scientific publication and reading practices – and thanks to the support of our Publishers, we are confident that we

will continue to propose new developments to our readers, authors and reviewers in the future.

Best wishes for 2012.

Regis Céréghino, Pascal Laffaille
and José-Miguel Sánchez-Pérez
Editors