

## FOREWORD

More than any other time, the end of a millennium affords us the opportunity for introspection, stock-taking and forward planning. As we usher in the last *Insect Science and Its Application* volume of the 20th century, we would like to take the opportunity to record the journal's birth, growth, metamorphosis and way forward.

*Insect Science and Its Application* was founded in 1980 by the African visionary, founder and first Director of the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Thomas R. Odhiambo in collaboration with the African Association of Insect Scientists (AAIS). Professor Odhiambo was the journal's first Editor-in-Chief. Allowing no obstacles to stand in the way of publishing the journal, ICIPE entered into an agreement with Pergamon Press, UK. The journal was devoted to all aspects of scientific research on tropical insects (and their arthropod relatives), as well as the application of new discoveries to pest and vector management and the utilisation of insects for human welfare. The journal quickly became an important vehicle for publishing tropical (mainly African and Asian) entomological research. With the establishment of ICIPE Science Press, ICIPE assumed the role of in-house publisher in 1987.

As with other aspects of its parent organisation, *Insect Science and Its Application* was affected by the restructuring of ICIPE between 1994 and 1995, with the retirement of its second Editor-in-Chief, Professor K. N. Saxena, two Associate Editors and the Science Editor. Upon my entry as Editor-in-Chief in 1996, there was a backlog of manuscripts awaiting publication and the ISA secretariat was in need of rationalisation. Another major concern for me was widening the geographical diversity of contributors and subscribers. Furthermore, ISA needed to make urgent progress in riding the swelling wave of electronic publishing if it was to remain progressive.

Over the past three years, we have seen a major metamorphosis of the journal, with significant improvements in both the quality and diversity of contributions received. For example, contributions from the Arab world have increased from less than 3% between 1989 and 1994 to 16% in Volume 18 (1998). A quick examination of the Table of Contents and abstracts of this first issue of Volume 19 will attest to the greatly improved interest in publishing in ISA. We wish to pay tribute to the 300-plus reviewers listed in this issue, many of whom are also contributors, and who continue to donate their time and expertise in upholding the standards of the journal. You will also notice some changes in the Editorial Advisory Board, following a recruitment of several new members this year, many of them longstanding reviewers and constructive critics of the journal.

A shorter manuscript turnaround time (average of 6 months), a revised scope to reflect topical global challenges and environmental consciousness, and full on-line availability of the journal are other attractions of the new *Insect Science and Its Application*. These have come about mainly as a result of computerisation of secretariat operations, increased use of electronic communication and staff training. *Insect Science and Its Application* is set to become current this year, with the on-line versions of each issue preceding the print versions by a few weeks. Issue No. 4 of this volume is a special issue commemorating 50 years of international cooperation in red locust control, published in conjunction with the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA), Zambia.

Looking ahead, our goal is to further entrench and exploit the ground gained in ensuring timeliness and adherence to scientific quality of the journal. In this regard, efforts will be

## Foreword

made to put in place the necessary infrastructure for the journal to grow in strength and readership in the next millennium, and thrive as a self-sustaining venture. We will also try to keep to our present policy of not charging any page fees, in order to help our fellow scientists from developing countries to publish their work in the journal.

We should like to encourage non-subscribing institutions and individuals to take advantage of the journal's specially reduced on-line rates, and look forward to receiving your topical contributions for publication, to further establish *Insect Science and Its Application* as an authority in tropical entomology.



Hans R. Herren  
Editor-in-Chief