

Editorial Letter

Dear colleagues,

We take the opportunity of the occurrence of the first coloured pictures on the cover to look back on two years of work of the current Editorial Team of the Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection, which is entirely located in Rostock.

Various things have changed during the past two years. Approximately a year ago, font and font size of the journal have changed, the most noticeable change to our readers. The positive feedback from our readers confirmed that it is more fun to read the journal in its current style.

Those who submitted, reviewed or processed manuscripts may have noticed the most important change over the last two years; the online submission system. As to be expected, there were, and still are, numerous imperfections, with the Open Journal System. They gave us, and with us many authors, reviewers and section editors, a hard time. For that, we, as an Editorial Team, would like to offer sincere apologies. Thanks to the continuous support and updates by Ulmer Publishers, the user-friendliness of the system has improved and continues to improve. It is getting more and more adapted to our and your wishes, is using mainly English, and is accessible to all authors who want to submit. Thus, technically the journal is on its way to become professionally managed.

We are most pleased that the impact factor of the journal has started to rise. A beginning is made, although there is enough room for further improvement! We would particularly like to thank the members of the Editorial Board, who reasonably contribute as Section Editors to this process. The Editorial Board has been strengthened by two new members, who starting as Section Editors in 2013: Monica Höfte, University of Ghent, Belgium and Ilaria Pertot, IASMA, S. Michele all'Adige, Italy. Welcome and we are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration.

The quality of the journal relies on conscientious reviewers. We annually publish the names of all reviewers to honour their contribution and make it more visible.

Working with an international Editorial Board and involving more internationally renowned scientists, experienced in the publishing process, is starting to pay off in terms of visibility and impact of the journal. However, this development also has a downside: Yes, the reviewing process takes time, because we want to have experienced reviewers. Yes, twice now we skipped an issue, because publishing nothing was preferred over publishing too low quality.

Of course, the quality of the journal fundamentally relies on the number and quality of the manuscript submissions. We cannot complain about too few submissions: in 2012 we received a total of 156 new manuscripts. For comparison, in 2011, this number was 133 and in 2010 it was 110. We warmly welcome high quality submissions from all over the world. Authors engaged in the German Society on Plant Protection and Plant Health (Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft) are in our special focus: JPDP is your journal! Occasionally there is lament noticeable, that hard scientific results from Germany are not considered in international registration and management processes. As long as your results are not published in a peer-reviewed and internationally accessible journal, this deficit will continue to exist. With the JPDP, the German Society on Plant Protection and Plant Health does have this type of journal. Just remember JPDP when you have new and interesting results to offer, which are suitable for the international publishing process.

This first issue in 2013 starts with two review papers: a review on wireworms, a severe problem in arable and vegetable cropping, and a review on detection of phytoplasma diseases. We hope to offer you more relevant and timely review papers in future issues. Thus, we encourage you to submit more topical and good review papers. The publication of reviews should further increase the attractiveness of the journal.

The Editorial Office is looking forward to your interesting, numerous and well-prepared submissions!

Bärbel Gerowitt

Christine Struck

Paula Westerman

Rostock, February 2013