

Editorial

Phyllomedusa – Journal of Neotropical Herpetology celebrates the completion of 5 successful years of uninterrupted contributions to the field of Herpetology. During this period, the journal has attracted the attention of herpetologists from Latin America, as well as from North America, Europe, and Australia. A total of 170 authors from 16 countries have chosen **PHYLLOMEDUSA** for their scientific communications. Of the 14 new species were described in our pages, three were frogs, two amphisbaenians, three lizards, and six snakes.

The journal's success seems to have resulted from (1) the high quality of its editorial board, which includes active members of scientific community from several different countries, such as Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and USA; (2) the fact that **PHYLLOMEDUSA** papers can be retrieved from many important reference indexes and databases, such as Biological Abstracts, Zoological Record, CABI Publishing, Elsevier Science Bibliographic Databases, The Reptile Database, Bibliomania's Herpetological Contents, and Herpetological Literature Database; (3) the wide scope of the journal, which publishes papers in all fields of Herpetology; and (4) the availability of all papers at journal's website prior to the distribution of its printed version.

PHYLLOMEDUSA is broadening its geographical scope to reflect the globalization of its contributors and their interests. From now on, papers will be published on taxa from the Neotropics, as well as the rest of the world. Accordingly, the name of the journal is changing to **PHYLLOMEDUSA – Journal of Herpetology**, and the Editorial Board has incorporated new Associate Editors to represent scientific communities from other zoogeographic regions. There is a total of 20 internationally recognized herpetologists from 11 countries and three continents. The diversity of this group will enhance scientific communication among herpetologists around the world, and this should be the primary goal of any scientific periodical.

Many people greatly assisted the staff of **PHYLLOMEDUSA** during its first 5 years of publication, and we owe a debt of gratitude to each of them. I am especially indebted to two colleagues in particular. André Nemésio convinced me to create **PHYLLOMEDUSA** and published it for the first 3 years during difficult times. Pedro Rocha, applied his intelligence, discipline, and expertise to the process of manuscript evaluation, and immeasurably enhanced the quality of the published material. A first-class journal depends entirely on the quality of its authors, editorial board members, and *ad hoc* referees, and **PHYLLOMEDUSA** always counted on many of the best ones indeed. Associate editors who have served during these past 5 years have contributed greatly to the quality of the journal and made my life every so much easier. Finally, I wish to thank subscribers for their support and many libraries around the world that have included **PHYLLOMEDUSA** in their collections. Idmar Pedro is the designer responsible for the extraordinary graphic quality of the journal, and Fábio A. Bazanelli is gratefully acknowledged for his voluntary work as web designer and webmaster.

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My last acknowledgements are extended to the new Associate Editors, who have accepted my invitation and have joined **PHYLLOMEDUSA** in its mission of serving as an international outlet for original herpetological research.

Jaime Bertoluci
Editor