

Preface

Dear readers of AMAZONIANA, dear colleagues,

At the beginning of 1965 Prof. Dr. Harald Sioli, Director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Limnology (MPIL) at Plön, Germany, and Prof. Dr. Djalma Batista, Director of the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA) at Manaus, Brazil, founded a new scientific journal for the promotion of limnology and landscape ecology in Amazonia, and to strengthen the Brazilian - German cooperation within the Amazon basin. In 1968 the Brazilian editorship passed to Prof. Dr. Heitor Grillo and in 1972 to Dr. José Cândido de Mello Carvalho, both from Rio de Janeiro. After his retirement (and my nomination as Head of the Tropical Ecology Working Group at the MPIL), Prof. Sioli invited me to assume the function of the German editor (as of 1982). In 1992, I invited Prof. Dr. Francisco de Assis Esteves (Rio de Janeiro) to act as Brazilian editor, and Prof. Dr. Joachim Adis (MPIL) to become the executive editor. Prof. Adis has coordinated all editorial work since, with the help of Dr. Bernd Friebe at Giessen, Germany (1992-1994) and Prof. Dr. Ulrich Saint-Paul at Bremen, Germany (1995-2007).

In 1965, the first fascicle of AMAZONIANA was published, and became the main journal for limnological research in Amazonia. Since that time, 19 volumes with 4 fascicles each have been published, and AMAZONIANA has become a rich source of scientific information about Amazonia for students and scientists. However times have changed, with the increasing interest of the scientific community in the Amazon basin the number of studies have increased dramatically. To cope with the rising number of publications INPA founded a new journal (ACTA AMAZONICA) in 1971, that published a wide range of papers about the area. In addition, other scientific journals now accept papers about different aspects of research within this region. In response to the increasing demand on comparative studies of wetlands and water bodies, in 1990 the editorial board of AMAZONIANA opened the journal to papers dealing with all types of wetlands in tropical South America. This allowed the acceptance of papers of other regions e.g. the Pantanal of Mato Grosso, that have many similarities with Amazonian floodplains, but also show considerable differences.

It is the rule in the Max-Planck-Society that with the retirement of directors the respective departments and working groups are closed, this allows flexibility to cope with new scientific challenges. This time has now come for the MPIL in Plön, with the retirement of Prof. Lampert (Head of the Department Ecophysiology) in September 2006 and my retirement in June 2007, Limnology and Tropical Ecology will end at the Max-Planck-Institute in Plön. The editorial board of AMAZONIANA has discussed different ways to continue the publication of the journal, but we came to the conclusion that without the active scientific cooperation between MPIL (Plön) and INPA (Manaus), AMAZONIANA would lose its characteristic profile and identity. Furthermore,

financial support of the Max-Planck Society will end and with that the invaluable input given by members of the institute (mainly by Prof. Adis and his technical staff Ingrid Ploog and Herbert Kieseewetter), to guarantee the quality of the journal. Therefore we came to the conclusion that the end of the Tropical Ecology Working Group is an appropriate moment to also cease publication of the journal AMAZONIANA.

The editorial board of AMAZONIANA would like to thank the Max-Planck Society for its long lasting financial support of the journal, our technical staff for their invaluable help, the authors for submitting manuscripts and last but not least the readers for their interest in the journal. A period of fruitful research and cooperation between MPIL Plön and INPA Manaus, documented by AMAZONIANA has come to an end. Its time to say goodbye.

Plön, June 2007

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang J. Junk