

FOREWORD

The publication of this Volume of *Insect Science and Its Application* marks 21 years since 1981, when the seed that has become synonymous with tropical insect science reporting first germinated, with the publication of the first issue of the journal. Rather than looking back at the history of the journal, I shall focus here on its immediate past, present and future.

Over the years ISA has strived to remain conscious of the 21st century truism that only those that can adapt to rapidly changing technology will survive, and I am confident in saying that every step of the journal's publication process has been reengineered to be at par with those of journals in the developed world, with such approaches as the increased use of computer technology for handling correspondence and production work, full on-line availability; and, more recently, the electronic distribution of page proofs and offprints.

With this Volume, Dr William (Bill) Overholt takes over as ISA's Associate Editor. Hardly a stranger to *Insect Science and Its Application*, Dr Overholt has authored many articles in the journal and has served as a reviewer of numerous manuscripts and as Guest Editor of a special issue of ISA (Volume 17 No. 1). As a Principal Scientist at ICIPE, Bill coordinates a regional project on the classical biological control of the invasive Asian stemborer, *Chilo partellus*, in 12 eastern and southern African countries. He received his PhD in Entomology from Texas A&M University in 1989, and worked for USAID in Washington, DC as Pest Management Advisor to the Global Bureau before joining ICIPE in 1991.

I am also very pleased to welcome to the ISA Editorial Advisory Board Dr Bruno Le Ru, Scientist at Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement (IRD, formerly ORSTOM), France. Dr Le Ru obtained his PhD in Entomology from Paris XI Orsay University in 1984 and has a wealth of experience in tropical entomology, having worked for 13 years in the Congo researching on the ecology, plant-pest interactions and tritrophic interactions of the cassava mealybug. Many of his articles in this area have been published in international scientific journals, including ISA. Bruno is currently stationed at ICIPE, Nairobi, where he is developing a joint research programme between IRD and ICIPE on the biodiversity of noctuid cereal stemborers in East Africa.

This year, ISA was the recipient of a UNESCO grant to support the journal's publication, marketing and distribution, thanks to which 10 African universities will receive a year's gratis subscription to the journal. We see this activity as a far-reaching capacity building exercise that encourages readership and authorship in African scientists, many of whose institutions would ordinarily not subscribe to the journal due to financial constraints. Additionally, ICIPE recently renewed discussions with the African Association of Insect Scientists (AAIS) regarding their role as co-sponsor of ISA. I am confident that AAIS will agree to accept a greater responsibility for the journal through increased efforts in marketing, assistance with editorial review, and the submission of high quality papers from its members.

In conclusion, the challenges of publishing a scientific journal in a developing African country are many, but I and the rest of the ISA staff are highly committed to providing a forum for the dissemination of high quality research results focusing on tropical insect science. We will continue our efforts to increase the quality of the journal and expand readership, and encourage you as readers of ISA to sustain your support and assist us in the journal's promotion.



Hans R. Herren
Editor-in-Chief