

About the electronic supplement

The electronic supplement of „Organisms, Diversity and Evolution“ (ODE) is now fully operational. February 2001 saw the posting of two colour plates on the web to accompany the article by Clausen & Renner in issue number 1 of the printed journal. Now the first revision is released in the internet (Coleman & Leistikow on isopod crustaceans, see p. 164), together with another colour plate supplementing the article by Brökeland et al. (see pp. 83–98).

This electronic supplement is intended as a medium for the simple and rapid publication of the kind of taxonomic information often shied away from by publishers (such as voluminous revisions or monographs, colour plates, large tables, nucleic acid sequence alignments, and so on), data which devour printing space or costs but are considered to be of interest only to a limited number of specialists. Moreover, we also want to use the website to publish data not normally suitable for print media but ideal for the internet, including audio and video sequences, 3D-movies, and all kinds of other electronic files.



The advantages of this approach are obvious: ideal complementation of the print version with instant worldwide access, easy publication of extensive articles to reach the specialists without filling whole printed issues, reduced costs of publication and reprint distribution. Anyone interested can download and, where appropriate, print a copy of the electronically published resource.

The electronic supplement is published as a service under the auspices of the Gesellschaft für Biologische Systematik (GfBS) and will be available free of charge via the webserver of the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Archival copies (CD-ROMs) will be sent to five major museums and libraries worldwide. Furthermore, the electronic data will be included in a long-term archive project established by the Deutsche Bibliothek (German Library), also in Frankfurt/Main.

The editors of ODE have agreed that any electronic resource will have a corresponding publication in the printed version. Combinations may range from a full paper article with only a small electronic supplement (e.g., a colour plate) to merely an abstract in print with an extensive electronic revision. In order to comply with the International Codes of Botanical Nomenclature (Art. 29) and the Nomenclature of Bacteria (rule 25a), any nomenclaturally relevant action, such as descriptions of new taxa or typifications, will have to appear in the printed part of the journal (but may be repeated in the electronic part). This procedure will also make such actions unambiguous under the Zoological Code. The publication date for such data will be that of the printed issue.

This venture represents a prototype, and we hope for the support and understanding of our audience and authors. If things do not run smoothly at first, please be patient. If you find anything that could be improved, please alert us. If you are an author, please support us by ensuring your manuscript follows our guidelines meticulously.

I personally hope that the scientific community will realise the potential of this electronic supplement and will consequently submit their most important manuscripts to us.

Dr. Stefan Dressler
The Executive Editor of the Electronic Supplement of ODE
May 2001
www.senckenberg.uni-frankfurt.de/odes/