

Dear readers,

From 2010 *Oecologia Brasiliensis* is going to be named *Oecologia Australis*. Its main objective is still the publication of literature reviews on Ecology in the three idioms adopted by the Editorial Board (English, Portuguese and Spanish). This change was widely discussed with the Editorial Council too, and was also approved by the coordination of the Postgraduate Program in Ecology from Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (PPGE/UFRJ). The objective is to reach a wider audience of authors and readers, especially the Southern Hemisphere researchers. The Editorial Board is going to be reorganized to increase its international range, in order to stimulate researchers from Latin America and other countries to use our journal to publish their scientific works.

Since 2006, when *Oecologia Brasiliensis* began anew, the journal had passed by various structural changes. The number of spontaneous submissions of literature reviews almost triplicate from 2006 to 2009, and nowadays the rejection rate surpass 50% of the submitted articles. These numbers demonstrate how far *Oecologia Brasiliensis* grows. Moreover, the inclusion of *Oecologia Brasiliensis* into the Scopus database from 2010 shows how our journal effectively contributes to the dissemination and improvement of sciences in Brazil.

Among some difficulties faced by the journal team, a regrettable fact has to be mentioned on this Editorial. In March of the current year (2009) we received a denunciation related to three articles published at *Oecologia Brasiliensis* (volume 11, number 04, year 2007). They were plagiarized from articles that had been already published in other national journals. As soon the denunciation was confirmed, we replaced the plagiarized articles with messages for our audience. The main author of the articles was dismissed from the program he had been developing his PhD thesis, and his MPhil degree is under investigation. I would like to use this Editorial to public excuse the plagiarized authors for the fact. Also, it is important to state that this fact is not restricted to *Oecologia Brasiliensis*, since similar situations are commonly presented in national and international journals and deserve total repudiation. A series of measures are being adopted to avoid this situation to occur in the near future.

We finish this message expressing our gratitude to the members of the Editorial Board and the Editorial Council, the Associate Editor, the members of the Assistant Editors and mainly the authors and reviewers who accompanied and contributed to *Oecologia Brasiliensis* growth during the last 4 years. Without everyone support, we would not be able to take this ambitious step to change the name and make turn *Oecologia Brasiliensis* into an international journal.

Alex Enrich-Prast
Editor-in-chief