
EDITORIAL

The *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* had its beginnings in 1900, when it appeared under the title *Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*. It was established by the then Regius Keeper, Professor Isaac Bayley Balfour, to disseminate the scientific and horticultural work of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE). The early volumes covered a wide range of topics, but the Journal soon developed into one primarily dealing with plant systematics and became a well-respected publication by those familiar with it. In 1990, in order to broaden the appeal of the Journal, the title was changed to the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* (it being considered that 'Notes' inferred an outlet for short, ephemeral articles) and the format was enlarged and redesigned. These changes were well-received, but the Journal continued to carry the stigma of a 'house-journal' — a hindrance to its standing in the scientific world at large, whatever the quality of its contents!

In order to increase the scientific standing, distribution and outreach of the Journal, RBGE Management and the editorial staff recently explored ways of restructuring the Journal's editorial and publication arrangements. The outcome of these deliberations has led to three major changes. Firstly, there has been the establishment of an international Editorial Board of leading scientists with a wide range of botanical, geographical and technical expertise. Secondly, the Journal now welcomes from any authors the submission of papers pertaining to plant systematics, biodiversity, conservation and scientific horticulture, with all papers being rigorously refereed by relevant specialists. Thirdly, the Journal's publication has been placed on a more commercial footing under its new publishers, Cambridge University Press.

On a personal note, I wish to express my thanks to everyone concerned in the changes to the Journal over the past five years. My special thanks go to Norma Gregory and Erica Schwarz (my editorial colleagues at Edinburgh), the staff of our previous publishers at HMSO Scotland, members of the former Editorial Board, Professors John McNeill and David Ingram (past and present Regius Keepers of RBGE), the staff of Cambridge University Press, and, finally, the members of the newly formed Editorial Board who are now so kindly giving their support and services to the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* in its new venture.

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