



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume 25 of *Metamorphosis*! This volume contains all the articles published on our website [www.metamorphosis.org.za](http://www.metamorphosis.org.za) during calendar 2014. Volume 25 contains 26 (14) articles, 180 (83) pages, and 108 112 (47 888) words (comparison with Volume 24 in brackets).

The production of the past archives (1983–2011) is complete, and 167 PDFs have been uploaded onto the website. You can search for content on the website by author, title words or keywords. Mark Williams' Afrotropical Butterflies has also been uploaded to the website, with 323 PDFs of genera, including 4 PDFs of bibliography. Images will accompany each PDF on the website to provide a typical example of a member of each genus.

The structure of the website has been improved to cater for different kinds of publication by the introduction of a "Publication Tree". This enables you to search for content in hierarchical fashion, and is particularly useful for Afrotropical Butterflies, where the hierarchy follows families, subfamilies and genera.

We undertook to produce more articles on Afrotropical moths, and thanks to the efforts of our authors Hermann Staudé and Pasi Sihvonen an excellent paper on the genus *Zerenopsis* was published, which incidentally won the coveted "Publication of the Year" award at the LepSoc conference. Congratulations to the authors! We also promised to publish papers on ecology and conservation, and articles on *Chrysoritis dicksoni* and *Erikssonia edgei* were a very good start.

I am very grateful to the publishing team of Babbel Blues under the leadership of Bennie Coetzer for enabling LepSoc to fulfil its pledge of providing a forum for less scientific articles, and two issues have already been published. The archives of Babbel Blues will be hosted on the Metamorphosis website.

We have continued to expand our links with South African universities, and several research proposals have been submitted for consideration. We have extended free access to our website to more overseas museums and university libraries (depositories) to increase the visibility of our journal to overseas scientists.

Several more new authors have been inducted and we have appointed more scientific peer reviewers. I would like to pay tribute to all our authors and peer reviewers, without whose considerable and painstaking efforts our journal would not be progressing as it is. Some of our new authors were provided mentoring in writing scientific articles.

Scientific articles can engender controversy, and we publish letters to the Editor commenting on, or criticising articles published in our pages. A review of d'Abrera's *Butterflies of the Afrotropical Region – Part III* (second edition), 2009 – Part 3 (Theclinae, Polyommata and Riodinidae) by Collins *et al.* was a case in point, with Bernard d'Abrera expressing grievances in a letter to the Editor about what he perceived as *ad hominem* remarks against himself in the article. *Metamorphosis* wishes to assure Mr. d'Abrera that its Editor accepts full responsibility for any completely unintended insults upon his person in the original article and apologises unreservedly if this has caused him any distress. The real issue is not so much a clash of personalities but a difference in taxonomic philosophies – our readers can decide which philosophical approach they prefer.

Another website project that is now complete is the installation of a Mailer facility, which will enable us to have direct email contact with all our LepSoc members and *Metamorphosis* subscribers, and every time that a new article is published they will be sent a link to the article and an abstract.

Projects planned for 2015 are:

- 1) To facilitate LepSoc member registration and login access to *Metamorphosis* via the LepSoc website.
- 2) To investigate an "Open access" funding model for *Metamorphosis*, including a critical analysis of the value that LepSoc obtains from continued production of a hard copy version of *Metamorphosis*, given the other urgent funding requirements that the society has.
- 3) The publication of the updated Practical Guide to the study of Butterflies and Moths on the *Metamorphosis* website. The tremendous efforts of the editor Ian Richardson are acknowledged.
- 4) To design and host a Lepidoptera publishing platform for the Caterpillar Rearing Group.
- 5) To publish English translations of foreign language articles on the *Metamorphosis* website.
- 6) To continue to improve our standards and make further progress towards achieving listing in scientific publication databases and an "impact rating".

It remains for me to wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2015, with many enjoyable Lepidoptera experiences and encouraging progress with your research projects.

Yours sincerely

Dave Edge

[orachrysops@gmail.com](mailto:orachrysops@gmail.com)