

ETHNOENTOMOLOGY

Ethnoentomology: an Open Journal of Ethnoentomology and Cultural Entomology

www.ethnoentomology.cz

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Editorial

Slovo redaktora

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Dear reader,

You are now viewing the first volume of the journal *Ethnoentomology*. The scope of *Ethnoentomology* includes but is not restricted to the history of entomology, history of apiculture, sericulture, pest management, entomophagy, taxonomy, historical insect biogeography, influences of insects in art, religion, music, folklore, medicine, literature, philosophy and countless other areas. To our knowledge, we are the only active journal in the world to specialise in this regard. By implementing modern open-access policies and utilising zonal constructed languages, we strive to provide an open forum of research available to anyone on the internet around the world free of any charge.

We first came into existence on 16th September 2016 upon receiving our first contribution. Our journal is young and we are aware of the challenges ahead of us. Internet and open-access are making scientific publishing easier than ever before but ensuring the standard of the published works requires a collaborated effort of the authors, editors, external peer reviewers as well as you, the readers. If you are interested, feel free to contact us and join our editorial board as one of our subject editors. As ever, we are looking forward to your valuable contributions.

The field of ethnoentomology, or more narrowly cultural entomology, has for long been a neglected branch of insect science. The interest in the imprints insects leave on human societies dates back to the 19th Century. It continued through the 20th Century to crystalize in the 1980s when the discipline was comprehensively defined. The year 1993 then saw the first issue of the journal *Cultural Entomology Digest* that was to become the first specialised journal in the field and brought major advances. Sadly, the last issue of this ground-breaking journal was published 20 years go. The impact that *Cultural Entomology Digest* left was an inspiration to us all while forming *Ethnoentomology*.

At present, some sources do not even cite ethnoentomology as a creditable branch of science but consider it rather an art. Our mission is to change this and show that ethnoentomology can offer various solutions to the modern society not only in terms of better understanding of ethnography but also aid sustainable agriculture, pest management, biosphere studies, medicine and regional development.

Finally, I would like to empathize our cover insect for this volume. The cover of our first edition is formed by the watercolour “Stag Beetle”, one of the most copied and influential studies of Albrech Dürer (1471 - 1528). This work is agreed to be the personification of one of the most important paradigm shifts in the human understanding of nature. With the coming of the Renaissance, Dürer was the first to change his point of view on the natural world and looked up to insects that have been considered the lowest of creatures by his precursors and contemporaries. This unprecedented effort started the wave of fascination with insects that later became entomology as we know it today. The Stag Beetle also carries a deeper symbolic meaning. While it had a negative connotation in many European cultures, elsewhere it was considered to be the reincarnation of Christ. The values that are renditioned in the painting link very closely to the thinking of our editorial team - connecting tradition with modernity and utilising new perspectives.

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