

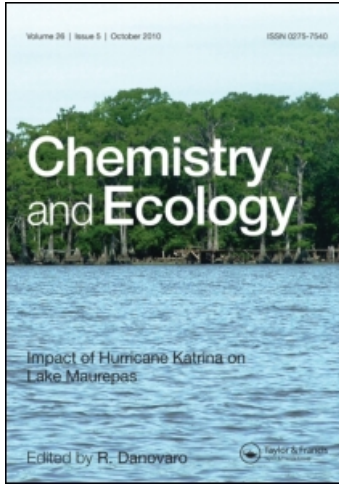
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### Preface

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## PREFACE

This dedicated issue of *Chemistry and Ecology* is the result of current interest in the role of soluble organics identified by Dr. Tony Edwards (Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Aberdeen) in response to my invitation to advisory editors of this journal to act as guest editor on a topic of their choice. Dr. Edwards pointed out that inorganic nutrients are not the only forms of N, P and S in soils and aquatic systems. Organically associated forms exist and may well contribute significantly to catchment transfers. Further, they may undergo in-stream degradation to their inorganic forms. Although earlier studies have often focussed on inorganic forms, new analytical developments and improved understanding of the importance of these organic soluble species is growing. Aspects of soil/water organic components include the role of soils in global changes in carbon cycling, in trace metal complexing in soil and stream waters, in mobilising organic pesticides, and in their contribution to soil and water acidification. Several recent and forthcoming papers to be published in *Chemistry and Ecology* are evidence of the growing interest in this topic.

Dr. Edwards has contributed to this special issue in respect of the onerous tasks of commissioning and advising contributors, in providing a balanced 'menu', and in overseeing the refereeing stages of the contributed papers. I am most grateful to his efforts and hope that our readers will find information and stimulation in this issue.

Gwyneth Howells  
17 August 1993