

## ***Mycorrhiza* – diversity and impacts**

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In the middle of 2001, David (Dave) Janos resigned as a Managing Editor of *Mycorrhiza*. We thank Dave on behalf of everyone associated with *Mycorrhiza* for the work that he has done for the journal. Dave's contributions to understanding the impact of mycorrhizal associations in tropical plant ecosystems are of fundamental importance. His major reviews (e.g. Janos 1996) are essential reading for mycorrhizal ecologists who are seeking to broaden their conceptual frameworks beyond temperate or arid ecosystems. These have implemented a growing recognition of the great diversity in the impact of individual mycorrhizal associations, and the complex outcomes in terms of effects on plant community structure – hot topics beyond the tropics.

It has not been a simple task to define in standard geographical terms the parts of the world for which the two Managing Editors are now responsible. Andrew Smith deals with manuscripts from the Americas, East and Southeast Asia, Australasia and the Pacific region. Vivienne Gianinazzi-Pearson deals with “the rest of the world” – i.e. Europe, Africa, the Near East and “Western Asia”, including the Indian sub-continent. Perhaps we need a map of the world with suitable shading for the two Managing Editors and grey areas in-between where contributors can take their pick!

As in previous years, submission of papers on all aspects of mycorrhizal research will be welcome. In the words of the revised “Aims and Scope” paragraph: “The scope of *Mycorrhiza* covers all aspects of research into mycorrhizas, including molecular biology of the plants and fungi, fungal systematics, development and structure of mycorrhizas, and effects on plant physiology, produc-

tivity, reproduction and disease resistance”. The scope also includes interactions between mycorrhizal fungi and other soil organisms and effects of mycorrhizas on plant biodiversity and ecosystem structure. We are very conscious that many mycorrhizal researchers have their own interfaces with research beyond mycorrhizas, in disciplines such as plant anatomy, fungal and plant physiology, ecology, taxonomy and evolution, and, of course, applied areas including agriculture and forestry – with the increasing influence of molecular biology throughout. Accordingly, the “News corner” section will include more reports from conferences that do not primarily deal with mycorrhizas but include contributions about mycorrhizas, or material relevant to mycorrhizas. Likewise, in the “Comments” section, scientifically sound and thought-provoking commentaries will be welcomed on new and exciting discoveries – whether published in *Mycorrhiza* or in other journals. We also very much hope that *Mycorrhiza* will be closely associated with the International Mycorrhiza Society, now *definitely* being established (<http://www.mycorrhizas.org/>), and we will work with our publishers and officers of the new society to try to bring this about.

In conclusion, it is our aim that *Mycorrhiza* – like the organs with which it deals – will both show diversity with respect to the material that it contains and have a strong impact. And yes, our Impact Factor is rising. It currently stands at 1.3. We'll leave it to our readers to compare with “the competition”.

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### References

- Janos DP (1996) Mycorrhizas, succession and the rehabilitation of deforested lands in the humid tropics. In: Frankland JC, Magan N, Gadd, GM (eds) Fungi and environmental change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp 129–162