

From the Editor

Silva Fennica Vol. 41 included 49 articles published in four quarterly issues in 2007. The number of published articles continued increasing from the previous years. This trend has prevailed over five years now, and is an outcome of a high yearly rate of manuscript submission. The editorial policy of Silva Fennica has been targeted at increasing the volume of articles published while not compromising scientific quality. Silva Fennica will continue to pursue this policy.

As regards peer review and other editorial processes, the journal's performance was about equal to that in the previous year. The mean time to first response was slightly longer, and the publishing time – from submission to publication – increased by one month from the previous year, averaging at twelve months. The acceptance rate was 50 per cent.

As the acceptance rate indicates, scientific quality is a primary consideration in Silva Fennica's publishing policy. The peer-review process is fundamental for ensuring that the results have been obtained by using a sound and valid research procedure. In 2007, Silva Fennica sought the expertise of 171 reviewers for manuscript evaluation and recommendations to authors. These reviewers and their work are acknowledged elsewhere in this issue, but I take the pleasure to express my gratitude to them once more here. I also thank the members of the Editorial Board for helping in many ways in conducting the peer-review process.

In addition to the printed issues, research published in Silva Fennica is available on the journal's own website, with free access to abstracts and full-text articles. Online articles are actively used as a source of scientific information. In 2007, the average number of full-text articles downloaded each day was 190. The articles are well cited in the current scientific literature and are also long used as sources.

The cover photographs of Vol. 42 will illustrate the species *Picea abies* (L.) Karst., which is a Eurasian evergreen softwood tree. The common name of *Picea abies* is Norway spruce or European spruce. *Picea abies* is native in Europe from arctic areas of north Fennoscandia to Eastern Europe and central European mountains where Norway spruce is often an Alpine forest line species. *Picea abies* is native eastwards to the Ural Mountains and north Asia in regions of Amur and Altai. *Picea abies* eastwards from Ural to Asia has a subspecies *obovata*, which is also called Siberian spruce. The eastern limit of Norway spruce is hard to define, due to extensive intergradations with Siberian spruce, but it is often given as the Ural Mountains.

Vol. 42 will introduce a major change to Silva Fennica: the journal will be published in five issues instead of four quarterly issues. The current issue is thus the first to come out according to the new publishing schedule. The issues will appear at regular intervals along the year. I hope that five yearly issues will help shorten the total publishing time and make Silva Fennica an improved medium of scientific information for readers and authors alike.

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