

100-year Anniversary of the Finnish Society of Forest Science in 2009

The Finnish Society of Forest Science, one of the publishers of *Silva Fennica*, was founded on 29 April 1909 by active scientists to promote research in forest and wood science in Finland. Scholarly publishing of research results has been a main function of the Society ever since. The first research journal, *Acta Forestalia Fennica*, was founded in the same year as the Society. Another research journal, *Silva Fennica*, was launched in 1926. After decades of publishing two journals, *Acta Forestalia Fennica* was finally merged into *Silva Fennica* in 2000. Today, the Finnish Society of Forest Science continues its traditional role in promotion of science as one of the Finnish Learned Societies. The issues of *Silva Fennica* this year carry the newly designed logo celebrating the 100 years of the Finnish Society of Forest Science.

Silva Fennica Vol. 42 included 51 articles published in five issues in 2008. The number of issues was increased to five in order to speed up the publishing time. This was made possible by the continued high rate of manuscript submissions. The number of submitted manuscripts in 2008 was greater than ever before. The editorial policy of *Silva Fennica* has been targeted at increasing the number of articles published while not compromising scientific quality. *Silva Fennica* will continue to pursue this policy in the future.

As regards peer review and other editorial processes, the journal's performance improved from the previous years. The median time to the first response to authors was three months, and 70% of the responses were given within four months from manuscript submission. The publishing time – from submission to publication – shortened from the previous year averaging at ten months. The acceptance rate was 36%.

As the acceptance rate indicates, scientific quality is a primary concern 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 2008, *Silva Fennica* was provided with evaluation reports by 226 reviewers. The numbers of reviewers and review reports were greater than ever before. The reviewers and their work are acknowledged elsewhere in this issue, but I take the pleasure to express my gratitude to them once more here.

In addition to printed issues, research published in *Silva Fennica* is available on the journal's own website, with free access to abstracts and full-text articles. *Silva Fennica* has been a pioneer in online open access publishing in forest science, boasting a track record of 15 years. Online articles are actively used as a source of scientific information. In 2008, the average number of full-text articles downloaded each day was 250. The articles are well cited in the current scientific literature. The ISI journal impact factor of 2007 was 0.817. The citations within the 2-year impact factor window only account for about 10% of the total citations of *Silva Fennica* receives yearly, because the majority of cited articles are older than two years.

I have the pleasure to thank the Board members of the past term for their fruitful work during these years for the benefit of *Silva Fennica*. I thank every Board member for pleasant cooperation and I give my special recognition to those members who are

now leaving the Board after many acting periods. The Board acting in 2009–2012 is presented on the inside cover of this issue.

The cover photographs of Vol. 43 will illustrate the tree species *Betula pendula* Roth, which is a deciduous hardwood tree belonging to the genus of Betulaceae. The common name of *Betula pendula* is silver birch. It has a wide native distribution in northern Eurasia from Europe to East Asia. Silver birch generally grows more than 25 metres in height and can even reach the height of 40 metres in fertile growing conditions. Silver birch wood is an important raw material for forest industry e.g. in paper products, plywood and furniture. The color of the wood is light.

In the current anniversary year of the Finnish Society of Forest Science, Silva Fennica will continue to publish high-quality scientific papers. Trusting in good co-operation with authors, reviewers, the Editorial Board and the editorial staff, I am optimistic about Silva Fennica's prospects and its ability to disseminate pertinent scientific information of forests, forestry and forest products.

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