



M O V I N G F I N G E R S

FROM THE EXECUTIVE EDITORS

Palaeontologia Electronica (PE) began its life in 1996, in response to challenges brought to our discipline by: i) changes in the world of scientific publishing, ii) changes in management practices of research institutions, and iii) changes in technology. PE seeks to meet these challenges by providing permanent, free, and full access to paleontological research, both current and past. Because PE does not have page limits, it can help alleviate journal backlogs. Because it does not produce print on paper, PE provides an outlet for manuscripts that rely heavily on animated, interactive, or 3D data, and allows unlimited use of color at no extra cost to the author. Modification of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN) in 1999 allowed PE to become an additional outlet for longer taxonomic treatments. Because PE is all-electronic and is produced by paleontologists for paleontologists, our monetary costs are limited to website production, copy editing, and pressing/distribution of archival CDs for ICZN compliance. As a result, PE manages its production very cost-effectively – at less than a tenth the cost of many print journals.

We are now in our sixth year, and with this issue publish our 50th scientific article. The issue contains an article by Raymond Gildner, in which Fourier methods are used to describe ammonite sutures. This work opens new ways to analyze the evolution of this important group. An article by Emmanuelle Javaux and David Scott illustrates the modern benthic foraminifer fauna from Bermuda using scanning light microscopy. In a third paper on foraminifera, Kurt Nielsen and co-authors explain the palaeoecological significance of borings in Quaternary tests. Eric Kappus and William Cornell present new vertebrate trace fossils from a Creta-

ceous dinosaur tracksite in New Mexico. The issue is rounded off with a second edition of the thecamoebian bibliography, which has been compiled by Franco Mediolli and coauthors (the first edition was published in 1999, in Volume 2, Issue 1 of PE). These papers have an average time from final acceptance to publication of less than two months.

With this issue, the Paleontological Society rejoins us as a Tier 1 sponsor. We are very grateful and excited to have their support. Similarly, we are indebted to the Palaeontological Association, which has been a continuous Tier 1 sponsor since our inception, and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, which began sponsorship in 2000. Funds for PE come from the members of these professional societies. If you like what you are seeing and you are not yet a member of one of these societies, please consider joining one (or all!) of them. Member and non-members alike who would like to support paleontology may, of course, also consider making financial or legacy donations to the societies. Supporting them will help foster continued publication of PE. Details for joining or making a contribution can be found through the links at left.

In addition to sponsorship changes, this issue marks two editorial changes at the journal. P. David Polly has now become Executive Editor, after serving on the PE board since 1996. David has just finished a three-year term as technical editor for *Journal of Paleontology*, published by the Paleontological Society. He is a Palaeontological Association Council member and a handling editor for *Palaeontology*. Most of David's professional service, however, has been for the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, where he has served on the information management committee since 1995

(including six years as chair) and as the editor of the SVP website since its start in 1996.

David L. Fox of the U. of Minnesota joins us as our new Treasurer. David is an isotope geochemist and vertebrate palaeontologist, with interests in phylogenetic reconstruction in paleontology (especially stratocladistic analysis) and in

interpreting individual life histories using isotopic signals (particularly in large Neogene mammals).

Lastly, so that you can more effectively browse through PE articles, we've added a new keyword index at left. Thanks for reading PE, and we hope you enjoy this issue.

Whitey Hagadorn & P. David Polly
Executive Editors