



## EDITORIAL

Welcome to Volume 26 of *Metamorphosis*! This printed version of Volume 26 contains all the articles published on our website [www.metamorphosis.org.za](http://www.metamorphosis.org.za) during calendar 2015, with the exception of the Torben Larsen obituary, which will be mailed separately to his lepidopterist colleagues. The online version of Volume 26 (including the obituary) contained 25 (26) articles, 167 (180) pages, and 98 007 (108 112) words (comparison with Volume 25 in brackets).

Mark Williams' Afrotropical Butterflies has been updated to the December 2015 edition. An image of a typical example of each genus accompanies most genus PDFs on the website

The structure of the website has been improved to cater for different kinds of publication by the introduction of a "Publication Tree". This enables you to search for content in hierarchical fashion, and is particularly useful for Afrotropical Butterflies, where the hierarchy follows families, subfamilies and genera.

The articles featured this year include three on Afrotropical moths, and four on ecology and conservation.

A decision was taken by LepSoc Council, and ratified by the AGM of the Society, to make *Metamorphosis* an "Open access" journal. This will make the journal freely available in electronic format to the global scientific community. Provision of a free printed version to every LepSoc member is no longer financially viable and as a consequence the new member category of "Subscriber Member", who contributes to the printing costs, has been created. Volume 26 will therefore be the last one that is freely available to ordinary members.

It was decided to restrict the updated "*Practical Guide to the study of Lepidoptera in Africa*" (edited by Ian Richardson) only to paid-up LepSoc members via the LepSoc website.

The results of the Caterpillar Rearing Group (CRG) since its inception will be published in *Metamorphosis* during 2016.

We have applied to the Department of Higher Education and Training for *Metamorphosis* to be an accredited journal, publications in which will qualify for government research funding. We have also made a new application to the "Zoological Record" to have our articles indexed and abstracted on their database.

We have continued to expand our links with South African universities, and currently have Lepidoptera research projects under way through students enrolled at the University of Cape Town (MSc) and Stellenbosch University (PhD).

We have inducted eight new authors in Volume 26, and additional scientific peer reviewers have been appointed. I would like to pay tribute to all our authors and peer reviewers, without whose considerable and painstaking efforts our journal would not be continuing to expand and improve. Some of our new authors were provided mentoring in writing scientific articles.

A feature of Volume 26 has been as already mentioned a comprehensive tribute to the late Torben Larsen, who passed away in May 2015. Torben was one of our most regular contributors throughout his prolific career as a butterfly fieldworker, author of scientific articles and writer of a number of comprehensive field guides to the butterfly fauna of African and Middle East countries. He has left a huge void in African lepidopterology and will be most sadly missed.

It remains for me to wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2016, with many enjoyable Lepidoptera experiences and encouraging progress with your research projects.

Yours sincerely

Dave Edge

[orachrysops@gmail.com](mailto:orachrysops@gmail.com)

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