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EDITORIAL: “CLIMATE, IMPACT FACTOR AND OUR TEAM”

A large part of this issue is dedicated to the phenomena of cave climate. Thermal conditions in caves are the result of many interacting processes between earth's atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere. Although cave atmosphere is often considered to be static, it shows measurable variability in time and space. Understanding of the long and short term processes in the cave atmosphere is important for many other fields of cave research, such as paleoclimatic studies based on stalagmite proxies, speleogenesis, biospeleology etc. Two years ago, an International Karstological School was dedicated to the study of cave climate. Some of the works presented there are now appearing as articles in this issue. They deal with various aspects of cave climate, including the basic theory of thermal and atmospheric processes in caves, dynamics of barometric caves, radon in caves, CO₂ dynamics in cave, influence of tourism on cave climate etc. However, the issue is not exclusively topical; there are other papers that bring in the diversity which we believe is one of the trademarks of this journal.

This year *Acta Carsologica* has received its Impact Factor (0.59), which triggered some considerations on our editorial policy. All journals aim at increasing their IF, and starting from its definition, one of the goals would be to change the policy in a way to publish a smaller number of papers with high citation potential. This would surely narrow the scope of the journal and the diversity of authors. On the other hand, we tend to attract young authors presenting their work and authors presenting research that may not be scientifically cutting edge, but includes interesting field observations not published previously. Putting the two things together brings us to a compromise: we will aim toward higher quality and try to attract the best authors in the field, but we will not lose the diversity of topics and authors that this journal is known for. We still have a lot of potential when it comes to marketing, and here is where. You can all help.

We are happy for every author that decides to publish with us. However, the number of manuscript has increased recently, and keeping in mind that limited financial resources do not allow us to publish more than three issues a year, the average time from submission to publication has increased.

Acta has no professional editor or manager. It is done by a team of three (before volume 38 there were two of us) as an assignment in addition to our basic job, research. Editing brings a lot of work, which includes all correspondence with authors and reviewers (these are sometimes hard to find), crosschecking, proofreading, translation of abstracts, correspondence with the layout and print production, maintenance of the web page etc. Therefore, I would like to ask authors for some patience and understanding when we do not answer promptly to your inquiries. We do our best.

However we still have plans to make the journal better. One of the primary task is to switch to electronic submission and editing, which will above all add to the transparency of the whole editorial process. We hope that it will also increase the efficiency of editorial handling, for the good of our team, authors and readers.

This is the last 2010 issue, coming almost under the Christmas tree. Let me use this opportunity to wish all the best in 2011 to all our readers and authors in the name of the editorial team.

Franci GABROVŠEK, Co-Editor