

Editorial

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ZR and ZRDC embrace a new era

Since its establishment in 1980, *Zoological Research* (ZR) has continued to strive forward with the enthusiastic and generous support of every author and reader. ZR has been a loyal companion to many generations of researchers and scholars, who have not only witnessed the evolution of ZR, but also devoted themselves to helping ZR grow (Yao & Jiang, 2021). Here, at the beginning of a fresh year, we are honored to have the opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to you all.

This last year has been a wonderful one for ZR. Notably, in 2022, ZR attained an impact factor of 6.975 (JCR Q1, ranking second among the 176 SCI journals within the Zoology category) and a CiteScore of 6.2 (released by Elsevier on 5 May 2022, ranking in the top 5% of the 488 journals in Agricultural and Biological Sciences, Animal Science, and Zoology). Both metrics have significantly improved from the previous year, reflecting the positive impact of ZR on the field, most notably the increase in high-quality submissions, publication of original and leading research, stimulation of wide public discussion, and provision of relevant data for policy-making.

Given the main research scope of ZR, including 1) primates and animal models, 2) conservation and utilization of animal resources, and 3) animal diversity and evolution, many wonderful and important articles have been published in the past year. For example, Liu et al. (2022) revealed the diversity of phrurolithid spiders in China; Sun et al. (2022) highlighted the essential role of AjBNIP3 in the degradation of damaged mitochondria during mitophagy; Tian et al. (2022) provided insights into the molecular and functional evolution of purine metabolism genes in mammalian oxidative stress adaptations; Ren et al. (2022) proposed several approaches for protecting Sichuan hot-spring snake populations and their habitats; Wang et al. (2022) provided insights into the underlying assembly mechanisms of mountain amphibians, integrating multidimensional diversity; Zhu et al. (2022) presented important information on the genetic architecture of sex in red tilapia, facilitating further exploration of sex determination mechanisms in this species; Yu et al. (2022) updated the

checklist of butterflies (Lepidoptera, Papilionoidea) of Yunnan Province, China; Ma et al. (2022) conducted a multi-organ single-nucleus transcriptomic survey of SARS-CoV-2-infected rhesus macaques, broadening our understanding of disease features and antiviral immune defects caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection and potentially facilitating the development of therapeutic interventions against COVID-19; and Chai et al. (2022) reported the discovery of a wild, genetically pure Chinese giant salamander, creating new conservation opportunities and new avenues for the detection and conservation of endangered species, especially those biotas extirpated by anthropogenic translocations and overexploitation.

It is worth mentioning that the research of Chai and colleagues was highlighted in *Science* under the title “A new hope” in the category of “In Other Journals” (*Science*, 26 May 2022, 376: 958-959), further emphasizing the importance of this work and ZR. Thus, with the continuous advancement of new technologies, big data, and multi-omics research, ZR is set to be a high-value platform for the publication of such studies.

We are also very pleased to announce the upcoming launch of our sister journal, *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation* (ZRDC) in 2023. ZRDC will be an open-access, multidisciplinary international journal published quarterly by the Kunming Institute of Zoology (KIZ), Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). ZRDC aims to provide high-profile rapid publication of research on all aspects of biological diversity, conservation, and sustainable use. The journal will be headed up by Prof. Yong-Gang Yao (KIZ, CAS) as Editor-in-Chief, and Prof. Xue-Long Jiang (KIZ, CAS) and Prof. Shu-Qiang Li (Institute of Zoology, CAS) as Co-Associate Editors-in-Chief. The journal is sponsored by China National Publication Funding and will waive article publication charges to all users until 31 December 2024. As a sister journal of ZR, ZRDC will benefit from our rich publishing experience and connections with authors, reviewers, and editors. We hope that ZRDC will become one of the top platforms for discussing conservation and diversity, hot topics in the new era of science and society, both in China and worldwide. As such, we look forward to your continued support of ZR and ZRDC.

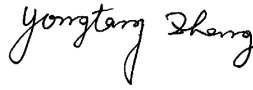
All in all, as we say goodbye to a fruitful 2022 and welcome a fresh and promising 2023, your contributions to both ZR and ZRDC are very welcome. On behalf of the editorial team of ZR, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

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