

Editorial

The impact of special issues

With support from many authors from many different scientific fields, *Zoological Research (ZR)* successfully released eight special issues from 2011 to 2014 on various topics, including *Animal Ecology and Resources*, *Animal Genetic Diversity, Development and Evolution*, *Fish Diversity and Primates and Animal Models of Human Diseases*. These special issues strongly align with our aims and scope, which have been fostered since our inception some 35 years ago.

Our special issues have promoted the visibility and influence of *ZR*, particularly evident in regards to the increased click rates from PubMed and high citation rates from Web of Science. For example, the click rate for the *Special Issue on Primates and Animal Models of Human Diseases* (2011, Feb. 32(1)) was more than 500 times higher than that of the previous issue, while the citation rates for the *Special Issue on Animal Ecology and Resources* (2011, Apr 32(2)) and the *Special Issue on Primates and Animal Models of Human Diseases* (2011, Feb. 32(1)) were reasonably high.

The articles and reviews published in our special issues have occasioned considerable attention. As of the end of 2014, the original research article *A behavioral ecology approach to traffic accidents: interspecific variation in causes of traffic casualties among birds* (2011, Apr. 32(2): 115-127) has been cited over 10 times and downloaded over 1000 times, while the *Checklist of fishes of Yunnan* (2013, Aug. 34(4): 281-343) has been reported in several newspapers, websites and other mainstream media.

The research and development on primate and tree shrew models of human diseases is an area of particular interest for *ZR*. Over the last four years, five special issues have been published with great success. The leading research on tree shrews and depression models, *Tree shrew models: a chronic social defeat model of depression and a one-trial captive conditioning model of learning and memory* (2011, Feb. 32(1): 24-30) has been downloaded almost 2000 times as of the end

of 2014. Two review papers regarding Chinese tree shrews (*Tree shrews under the spot light: emerging model of human diseases* (2013, Apr. 34(2):59-69) and *Molecular evidence on the phylogenetic position of tree shrews* (2013, Apr. 34(2):70-76)) hit the top 10 cited list from 2011-2014, and both have been selected in the "Project of Fronrunner 5000" (F5000) due to their roles in promoting scientific communication.¹

We are privileged to provide a platform in which exciting and groundbreaking research can be published. Should you, or your colleagues, be interested in contributing papers or developing a special issue on specific topics, we would be delighted to invite you as single-issue Guest Editors. We guarantee the timely publication of research, and we believe with your continued support, *ZR* will maintain its contribution to and influence on the field of science.

Again, we greatly appreciate the help provided by our authors and readers during the preparation of our special issues, and we look forward to further support in our upcoming publications.

Sincerely yours,



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*All the statistical data were from Web of Science and PubMed, from January 01 2011 to December 31 2014.