Editorial

We welcome you to “Arthropod Structure and Development” (ASD), a journal that is devoted to the functional morphology and development of what is arguably the most successful group of animals since the Cambrian explosion. Some of you may be surprised that this journal has appeared on your library shelves in place of the familiar International Journal of Insect Morphology and Embryology (IJIME), founded by Professor A. P. Gupta. However, this incarnation of one form from another seems fitting as metamorphosis is a developmental Leitmotif of the arthropods, oftentimes involving dramatic structural and functional change. On its way to becoming this new journal, there has been an analogous and occasionally radical process of renewal from its previous life as IJIME.

The scope of ASD includes major organ systems across all arthropod groups, emphasizing the functional relevance of structural studies. To achieve this, the publishers are working closely with the editors to guarantee a high standard of reproduction, particularly for colour illustrations.

An entirely new Board of Editors, with the help of an Advisory Board, has already provided invaluable service in selecting expert reviewers. And although the review process is never rapid enough for authors and editors alike, it is nonetheless working well. Two reviewers, sometimes three, are assigned to every manuscript. We would therefore like to thank our two Boards for their outstanding support.

The success or failure of this journal will depend on the community, on the editors, and on the publishers. Judging from the papers submitted, the response from the community has clearly justified the “birth” of this new journal and we feel that ASD has real potential of becoming a vehicle for integrating structural and developmental studies across a wide spectrum of approaches and taxa.

However, the success of this journal depends not only on good manuscripts but also on the good offices of Elsevier. This journal will stand or fall on the quality of layout and illustrations and one of our first tasks was to establish criteria for illustrative quality. We would like to thank Mrs. Kristien van Lunen at Elsevier for her dedicated support in this respect.

Finally, a word or two about future plans for the journal. For the next two years we envisage publishing about 4–6 issues a year. Our intention is also to invite guest editors for special issues, each of which will focus on one or two specific topics. Thus, your feedback and suggestions will be important to us or to other members of the editorial board. The journal needs this input because it is not our journal, but yours. Our role, and that of the Editorial Board, is to provide the framework, start the engine, and to ensure that the journal is running properly. It is you who will provide its intellectual and creative fuel.

With best wishes,

Alexander Steinbrecht
Nicholas Strausfeld