



Accelerating biodiversity descriptions and transforming taxonomic publishing: the first decade of Zootaxa

ZHI-QIANG ZHANG

Landcare Research, Private Bag 92170, Auckland 1142, New Zealand; ZhangZ@landcareresearch.co.nz

“Without question, one indisputable publishing success in the field of zoological nomenclature is the taxonomic mega-journal *Zootaxa*..... this publishing sensation has come from nowhere in 2001 to dominate the taxonomic publishing landscape as the world’s largest taxonomic journal.”

“*Zootaxa* has helped defragment the publishing landscape for zoological taxonomy, making taxonomy findable, and enabling the discipline to benefit from the network effects of increased collaboration.”

V. Smith (2010) *Systematic Biology* 59(6): 759

Zootaxa was launched ten years to help taxonomists overcome the taxonomic impediment by enabling them to describe biodiversity in a rapid and efficient way. The first paper on a new species of flat mite (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) was published in Zootaxa 1 on 28 May 2001 (Morales & Freire 2001). Unlike many regularly-scheduled journals, each paper in Zootaxa was separately issued and published without delay after acceptance by the editor, and there are no page charges or a small fee to support open access. In addition, Zootaxa offers the flexibility to publish manuscripts of any length, so long as they pass peer review. Many colleagues were excited and encouraged by the prospects of such a brand new journal and some of them joined as associate editors to facilitate rapid processing of manuscripts. The journal has met the needs of authors and sustained an early phase of very rapid growth (Figs 1–3),

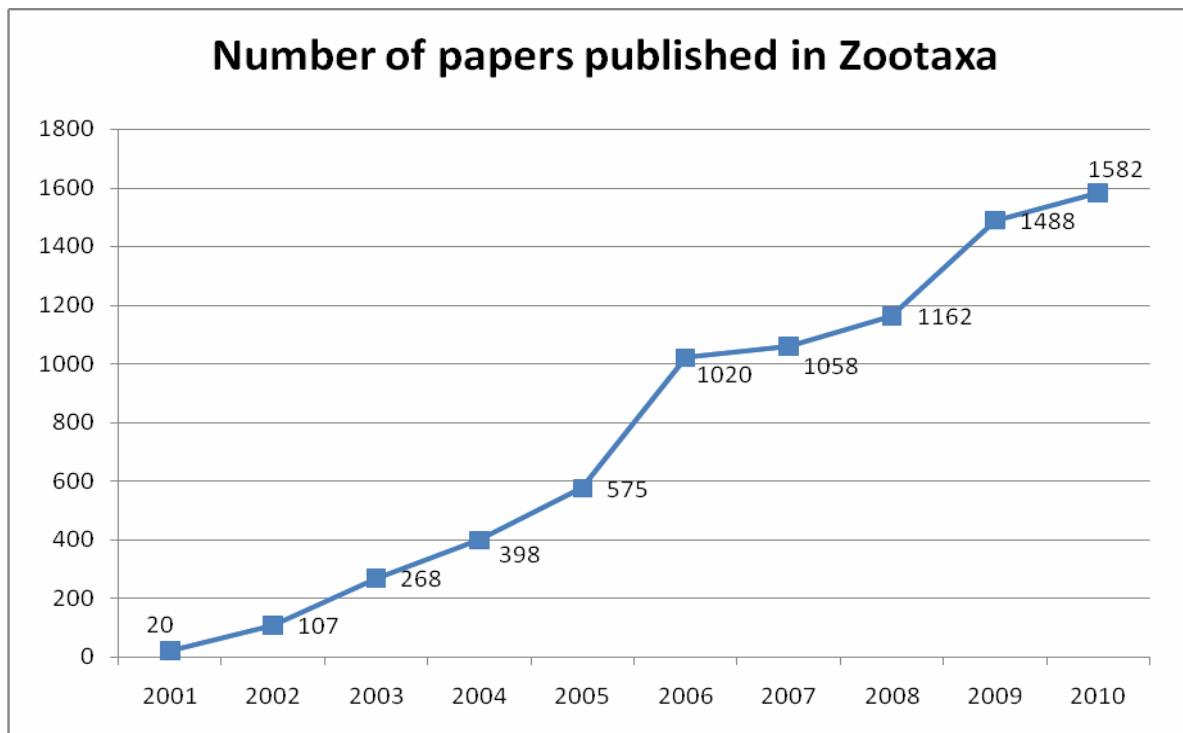


FIGURE 1 Number of papers published in Zootaxa from 2001 to 2010.