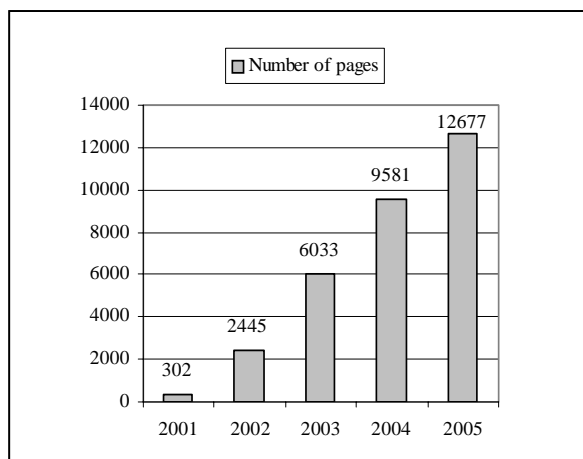


The first five years of *Zootaxa*

Zootaxa was founded in 2001 as a new print and online journal of systematic zoology. It was designed to help systematic zoologists to rapidly document and analyze world's zoological diversity, which includes many undescribed species now threatened by the rapid loss of habitats. Overcoming the 'taxonomic impediment' by helping taxonomists to rapidly document world's undescribed animals is *Zootaxa*'s main mission.

During 2001 to 2005, *Zootaxa* published 1103 issues in a total of 31038 printed pages, with contributions from 1619 authors from around the world describing 2337 new taxa. Taxonomists from developing nations are fairly well represented, with over 300 authors from the top mega-biodiversity country Brazil alone. The growth of the journal has been rapid: 20 papers in 2001, 107 papers in 2002, 268 papers in 2003, 398 papers in 2004 and 575 papers in 2005. Total number of printed pages each year also increased from 302 pages in 2001 to 12677 pages in 2005 (see figure). In 2004, *Zootaxa* published 398 papers in 9581 pages, much more than the combined total (8332 pages) published in ten core journals in systematic zoology: *Journal of Natural History*



(3360 pp.), *Zoological Journal of Linnean Society* (582 pp.), *Invertebrate Systematics* (702 pp.), *Zoosystema* (752 pp.), *Zoological scripta* (594 pp.), *Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research* (351 pp), *Zoomorphology* (225 pp.), *Systematic Parasitology* (714 pp.), *Insect Systematics & Evolution* (480 pp.) and *Systematic Entomology* (572 pp.). Published papers range from a short paper of 4 pages describing a new species to a monograph of 1295 pages (i.e. Tucker 2004), and cover a wide range of animal groups from mites and insects to fishes and mammals. Among the 80 monographs (i.e. papers of 60+ pages) published so far, some include not only descriptive accounts but also phylogenetic analyses (e.g. Brooks 2005). It is evident from these data that *Zootaxa* has become a major force in zoology and taxonomy. This is a tribute to all editors, authors and reviewers who have made *Zootaxa* a success.

Zhi-Qiang Zhang, Chief editor, *Zootaxa*

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