

Preface

In December 2007, *Zootaxa* celebrated the tercentenary of the birth of Linnaeus with an important collection of 30 articles published as volume 1668 under the title *Linnaeus Tercentenary: Progress in Invertebrate Taxonomy*.

Now, in December 2008, *Zootaxa* publishes another thematic collection, as a contribution to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the publication of the X edition of *Systema Naturae*, the Linnaean work that represents the starting point of current scientific nomenclature in zoology.

The present issue is based on the papers presented at an international meeting held at the University of Padova, Italy, in cooperation with the Linnean Society of London. During the two-day meeting (29–30 May 2008), thirty scientists from seven countries discussed from different perspectives the current role of nomenclature in communicating science. The subject matter was not limited to names for species and higher taxa, but also included anatomical nomenclature and the relationships between names, theory, and generation of questions on development and evolution.

A substantial selection of the papers presented at the meeting is published in this volume of *Zootaxa*, together with three additional articles written by some participants other than invited speakers, also dealing with the same range of topics as those formally presented in Padova.

The editors are most grateful to the Linnean Society of London for its generous support in the preparation and realization of the meeting and to *Zootaxa* for not less generously hosting in its pages a collection from which we hope there will be scope for stimulating further discussion.

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