

Editorial

In the year 2000 TAG volume 100 will be printed. The start of the new millennium – an exceptional date – and simultaneously a special TAG jubilee – a rare event. Such a coincidence demands an editorial and a need to look back:

This journal was founded in 1929 by Erwin Baur, director of the “Kaiser Wilhelm Institut” (the predecessor of the “Max Planck Institute”) at Müncheberg, as “Der Züchter” (i.e. “The Breeder”). It was initially a German journal covering all aspects of breeding. Under its editor Hans Stubbe, Gatersleben, who managed this journal from 1946 until 1976, the national character evolved into an international one, and the journal concentrated more on genetics and breeding research. During this time population genetics with its many aspects of biometry dominated. In 1977 Hans F. Linskens, Nijmegen, took over as editor-in-chief of TAG, a position he held for 10 years; to date he is still an active co-editor. He was followed in 1987 by Gerhard Wenzel, Grünbach and later Freising. During this time the tissue culture part of biotechnology peaked, and Springer founded a specific journal for this research area, namely “Plant Cell Reports”. TAG changed from a genetical journal for animals and plants to one concentrating on plant breeding research. Thus, the main focus shifted over the years from classical breeding via tissue culture approaches towards genomics. The structural analysis of DNA still dominates but a movement towards functional analysis has started.

During the 70 years of TAG’s production Springer has printed 99 volumes, at present 2 per year with 1300 printed pages each. Today the issues are available as a hard copy and online (<http://www.link.springer.de>). Keeping pace with the information technology will result in electronic issues of TAG in the near future that will appear in advance of the printed issue. This will reduce the time between acceptance and publication even further.

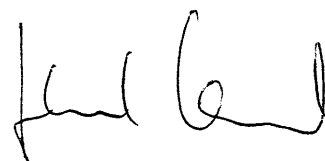
The extraordinary situation of volume 100 at the turn of the millennium is an ideal occasion for some changes in the editorial board. Volume 100 will be produced jointly by G. Wenzel and a new editor-in-chief, Heiko C. Becker, Institut für Pflanzenbau und Pflanzenzüchtung, Universität Göttingen. H. Becker has been TAG co-editor since 1997 and is responsible for the area of breeding methodology and selection theory. Christian

Möllers, Göttingen, will assist as managing editor. With volume 101 G. Wenzel will step down to become a co-editor once again, and H.C. Becker/C. Möllers will take over the responsibility for the future direction of TAG.

Such a change provides the opportunity to thank all of our subscribers and authors for their enduring interest in TAG. Through them it has been possible to maintain TAG as an active journal read by a large scientific community. Each journal has a role to play, and each journal finds a particular niche and identity which evolves with time. Consequently, a change in the editorship opens up new horizons. This is not only true for the editor-in-chief but for the co-editors as well. They changed over the years, and now one of the senior co-editors, Prof. Tigerstedt from the University of Helsinki is retiring and at the same time resigning from the TAG editorial board. We would like to thank him and all co-editors who have served the scientific community through their work on the editorial board. This thanks is also extended to the external referees who helped in making decisions about the acceptance of manuscripts.

Finally, the editors and the TAG staff at Springer wishes everyone a happy and productive start in the new millennium. We expect all of you to stick to TAG as one of your favourite journals.

Seventy years – one hundred volumes – this is some guarantee for a strong character. We look forward to seeing the fruits of your successful research published in the ever young dynamic journal TAG.



(Gerhard Wenzel)
Editor-in-chief 1987–2000



(Heiko C. Becker)
Editor-in-chief 2000–



(Christian Möllers)
Managing editor 2000–