

Preface

SALAMANDRA, the German journal of herpetology and herpetoculture, looks back on a 40-year-long tradition. As the scientific journal of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Herpetologie und Terrarienkunde e.V. (DGHT), it has gained an international reputation in the world of herpetological expertise. The fact that for the first twenty to thirty years SALAMANDRA was published exclusively in German did not seem to do it any harm.

However, globalisation has not bypassed the sciences, including herpetology. Instead, English has become more and more *the* international language for communication among scientists. Accordingly, some years ago SALAMANDRA opened up to this trend by accepting English contributions apart from those in German.

With the goal of improving SALAMANDRA's reputation further and attracting a wider range of international readers and authors, the DGHT-committee has decided that, from volume 41 on, SALAMANDRA, under the subtitle "German Journal of Herpetology", will be published exclusively in English. We are certain that 40 years of experience as well as the practised editorial staff and editorial board of internationally renowned herpetologists will guarantee a high scientific standard. Publishing in SALAMANDRA is attractive. Where else, for instance, do you have the option of printing numerous colour figures free of charge? Last but not least, we are currently still able to publish accepted manuscripts within less than twelve months.

As a service to the mainly German speaking DGHT members, a German translation, declared as such, of each SALAMANDRA issue, entitled DER SALAMANDER, is offered. This will increase, the readership of SALAMANDRA by several thousand interested people.

Manuscripts may be submitted in English or German. Manuscripts accepted will be translated from English into German (for publication in DER SALAMANDER) by a professional translation bureau or vice versa if submitted in German. However, SALAMANDRA remains the primary publication for authors. Translations are each carefully checked by bilingual language editors, native in either English or German respectively.

I am convinced that there are several good reasons to subscribe to and to publish in SALAMANDRA. We would be delighted for you to take advantage of this proposition.

The new era of SALAMANDRA and DER SALAMANDER would not have been possible without the help from many different parties. In particular my editorial colleagues and the DGHT office staff have invested much time and energy. My colleagues from previous and current committees have continuously supported our work. I would like to take this opportunity to offer them all our heartfelt thanks!

WOLFGANG BISCHOFF
Chief Editor, DGHT