

Israel Journal of Entomology

Vol. 41–42, 2011–2012

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Cover: A gynandromorph of *Xylocopa pubescens* Spinola (Hymenoptera: Apoidea), showing bilateral asymmetry, with male coloration on the right half of the head, right foreleg and left metasoma, and complementary female coloration. See article by Guershon and Ionescu in this issue. Photo: Oz Rittner.

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Editor's Message

With the completion of the present issue (41–42) of the *Israel Journal of Entomology* (IJE), I will retire my duty as the IJE editor after serving in various editorial positions for 23 years and having edited, as Editor-in-Chief, 16 volumes and approximately 3500 pages of the journal. I do this while we have a strong editorial board, and I am passing on the throne to Dr. Yair Ben Dov, who has agreed to act as Chief Editor at least for Volume 43.

IJE has always been the most important outlet for publications that deal primarily with taxonomy and faunistics of the insects of Israel, although articles focusing on other aspects, such as ecology, biology, behavior, physiology, and pest management, were frequently included. As such, IJE is a primary source of knowledge on the entomofauna of Israel. The current issue is an appropriate example, containing several articles that together list 666 species, many of which have never before been recorded from Israel. With an estimated 15,000 species of insects in Israel, including about 5,000 that have never been recorded from the country, our task is far from complete. To date, ca. 500 species new to science have been described in the various volumes of IJE, the great majority of which are from Israel.

I take this opportunity to thank all those people who served with me as editors, some as editor-in-chief, others while I was editor-in-chief, some both. I am also grateful to the typesetters, producers, and colleagues from the Department of Zoology in Tel Aviv University who helped to produce a better journal. Finally, I thank the numerous anonymous reviewers who have done a marvelous job for IJE. Without their help we could not have reached the high scientific standards of our journal.

Amnon Freidberg
December, 2012