

Looking forward with the *Revue Suisse de Zoologie*

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Looking forward with the Revue Suisse de Zoologie

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Editorial

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Abstract

This short piece traces back the genesis, development and dynamic editorial history of the *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* / *Swiss Journal of Zoology* published by the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève. It also introduces upcoming changes to the journal scope and publication model starting in 2026. Those include a continuous online publishing system that will allow faster dissemination of articles in the community, updated author guidelines designed to reflect current trends in systematics, and a broader focus expanding to phylogenetics, evolutionary biology and paleontology. These new directions will ensure that the journal continues to develop in the changing academic landscape while remaining free-for-all and representing a natural outlet for zoological studies in the future.

Keywords: Continuous publishing; Diamond open-access journal; Ethical publishing; Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève; Natural history collections; Phylogenetics; Systematics; Taxonomy.

LEGACY OF THE REVUE SUISSE DE ZOOLOGIE

The cessation of the *Recueil Zoologique Suisse*, led by Hermann Fol until his tragic passing in 1893, was pivotal in paving the way for a new Swiss zoological journal. The first volume of the *Revue Suisse de Zoologie et Annales du Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève* (RSZ) was published on the 6th of June 1893 (Buysens et al., 2023). This new publication was proposed by Maurice Bedot, former director of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève (MHNG) as well as the MHNG committee, which included Auguste Brot, Alfred Cartier, Victor Fatio, Perceval de Loriol, Alphonse Pictet, Henri de Saussure, and Carl Vogt. Camille Pictet passed away shortly after the release of the first volume; his obituary became the first article published in the RSZ. Since 1899, the journal also became the annals of the newly created Swiss Zoological Society, and from then, the MHNG and the Swiss Zoological Society have jointly managed the publication.

In its early years, RSZ published a wide range of zoological studies in French, German, or Italian, including seminal works by scientists such as Perceval de Loriol, Henri de Saussure, Jean Carl, and Roger de Lessert. During its first three decades, the journal also played

a major role in publishing Ph.D. theses from Swiss students nationwide (Revilliod, 1927). After the passing of Maurice Bedot in 1927, the RSZ was edited by the new MHNG director, Pierre Revilliod. He was assisted until 1944 by MHNG vice-director Jean Carl and Swiss Zoological Society general secretary Roger de Lessert, and later by Gaston Mermod (malacology curator) and Emile Dottrens (vertebrate curator). Emile Dottrens became MHNG director in 1953 and also editor of the RSZ, with Gaston Mermod (replaced by Eugène Binder in 1957) and Hermann Gisin (arthropod curator) as editorial board members. Between the 1940s and 1950s, zoological studies in English began appearing in RSZ alongside a majority of publications in French and German. Villy Aellen, then vice-director of MHNG, joined the board in 1966 before becoming director and editor of the RSZ from 1969 to 1989. François Baud and Volker Mahnert, both MHNG curators, assisted Aellen as co-editors. During this period, the first editorial board was established, including academics from Swiss institutions. Volker Mahnert became MHNG director and RSZ editor in 1989, with Daniel Burckhardt joining the editorial board. In 1993, RSZ presentation was modernized for the 100th volume. From 1993 to 2005, Volker Mahnert edited the RSZ alongside François Baud, Daniel Burckhardt, Charles Lienhard, and Manuel Ruedi.

In 2006, the new MHNG director Danielle Decrouez became editor of the RSZ, joined by a board including ornithologist Alice Cibois and cnidariologist Peter Schuchert. The same board continued under Jacques Ayer, who became director of MHNG and *de facto* editor in 2012. The latest stylistic modernization occurred in 2015, with the simplified name *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* and the subtitle *Swiss Journal of Zoology*. With Arnaud Maeder as MHNG director in 2021, the RSZ continued to be edited solely by Alice Cibois and Peter Schuchert, the latter replaced in 2022 by entomologist Bernard Landry until his retirement in 2025. The current board, introduced in 2024, includes ornithologist Alice Cibois (administrative editor), arachnologist Lionel Monod (co-editor in chief), and entomologist Emmanuel Toussaint (co-editor in chief). As editors, we aim to build upon over a century of editorial legacy while embracing developments in academic publishing.

EDITORIAL OUTLOOK

The *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* is a diamond open-access journal (Fuch & Sandoval, 2013), a rare example of free publication for both authors and readers in zoology, taxonomy, and systematics. We strongly support this model and will continue, through the RSZ, to make taxonomy, systematics, and phylogenetics widely accessible to the community.

Starting in 2026, the RSZ will adopt a continuous publishing model, allowing articles to be released online immediately after acceptance. A single printed volume will then be published at the end of the year, containing all articles released online during that calendar year. New editorial guidelines will require authors of taxonomic studies to register nomenclatural acts in ZooBank to ensure validity upon online publication (Pyle & Michel, 2008; Krell & Pape, 2015).

The journal will also slightly broaden its focus, welcoming phylogenetic and evolutionary studies alongside taxonomy and systematics. Less emphasis will be placed on faunistic reports, while long monographs, book reviews, and opinion pieces will remain welcome. Authors of paleozoological studies are also invited to submit to RSZ, consolidating its role as a comprehensive outlet for zoological research.

We hope that this transition will allow the Revue Suisse de Zoologie to further establish this journal as a highly respected academic outlet in zoology. To acknowledge these changes in editorial board, publication strategy and scope, we are also introducing a new graphic format that we hope will please both authors and readers.

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