

# Editorial

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Welcome to *Freshwater Reviews*, the new house journal of the Freshwater Biological Association. As a concept, it was born somewhere back in the Spring of 2006; mindful of its declared object, to promote excellence in freshwater science, the Association's Council was looking for new, self-supporting ventures that would support existing scientists and encourage new students, despite a climate that is arguably hostile, to work in lakes, rivers and streams. In a world which is not short of good or new journals, this is a choice that is less than obvious. *Freshwater Reviews* replaces *Freshwater Forum* as the house journal of the FBA, though *Forum* will continue as an occasional series for specialised articles. *Freshwater Forum* had fulfilled its role extremely well, although, because of its limited circulation, its articles were becoming increasingly specialised, less in mainstream demand, and unattractive to authors other than those writing specialised material. Questioning what kinds of article might court higher impact scores, attract more authors, have a wider variety and more prolific sales, we quickly arrived at the notion of review articles. Updating recent developments, explaining current understanding and identifying the next generation of questions, good reviews are regarded everywhere as being useful to scientists in related disciplines of aquatic science and popular with teachers who need to follow simultaneous progress in a number of branches of freshwater science. What better for the FBA, then, than a review journal offering accessible, authoritative articles by active researchers?

Our new venture attempts to meet additional objectives, which, far from distracting from the headline purpose, we hope, strengthen the appeal of the journal. Freshwater science has a long tradition in application, protecting and managing water supplies, regulating the impacts of water use and in multi-disciplinary approaches to developing new resources. We have been keen throughout to serve the user community, by informing them of advancing knowledge and understanding, and to share good practice and beneficial new approaches. We wanted to develop an attractive publication for freshwater scientists in Europe, being especially mindful of the closer mutual collaboration fostered by the newly-formed European Federation of Freshwater Sciences.

I am very pleased with the first reviews that we have processed. Cristiana Callieri's article brings us up to date with research on the taxonomy, phylogenetic affinity, physiology and ecology of the freshwater picophytoplankton. Brian Moss brings us one of his provocative, forthright explorations of the consequences of the absence of a functional littoral zone, such as we expect of a natural lake; he shows the absence of a proper shoreline kingdom makes it difficult to develop a high-quality aquatic habitat. Then, we have a thoughtful and critical review by Dag Hessen in which he explores the relevance of stoichiometric resource ratios impinging upon the composition of freshwater communities. Jean-Pierre Descy and Hugo Sarmento provide a topical overview of the plankton composition and succession in the large East-African lakes. A thoughtful consideration of the hydrological control of river structure and function, and how ecosystem services are affected by poor hydrological resource management, by Sergi Sabater, is another of those reviews that should influence how we look after our water resources. The role of designated wildlife sites in conserving aquatic biodiversity is intriguingly assessed in the article by Chris Mainstone. Finally, we have a stimulating and very topical view of the structure and ecology of freshwater bacterioplankton, developed by Jürg Logue and Eva Lindström, based on the exciting rapid advances they have been making in the field of molecular diagnoses of microbial affinities and physiological functions.

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I am grateful to all these authors, not just for the quality of their contributions but for their confidence to respond to my invitations to submit their manuscripts to an unproven journal, whose production was only promised. Reviews may be as useful and as popular as I suggested but it is not everyone who has the ability, inclination and time to write them! I acknowledge with a similar sense of gratitude the work of the members of the editorial board and, especially, of outside referees. In most instances, this was less about accepting or rejecting papers so much as receiving suggestions for improvements of clarity of articles and snippets of additional information. In every instance, the author acknowledged and responded positively to the recommendations.

On the production side, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the FBA's journal team for their knowledge, support and expertise which have made the production and publication of *Freshwater Reviews* possible. To be sure, I hope they will be satisfied with the first appearance of *Freshwater Reviews*. I very much hope that the Director, Mike Dobson and members of the FBA Council, who entrusted the honorary editorship to me, the membership and, of course, all who read or refer to *Freshwater Reviews* will feel the same way!

**Colin S. Reynolds**

**Editor**