

***Steenstrupia*: a short history of the taxonomic journal of the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, 1970–2012**

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Steenstrupia



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Steenstrupia has been published by the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen since 1970. A total of 322 papers, most of them taxonomic in nature, have been printed in the journal. During the forty two years of its existence, the journal has had six main editors and has made modifications to its format twice. This is the final issue of *Steenstrupia*, as the Natural History Museum of Denmark has decided to join the consortium of European museums and institutes that has published the *European Journal of Taxonomy* since 2011.

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This is the final issue of *Steenstrupia*. For 42 years this journal has been published by the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, now part of the Natural History Museum of Denmark.

The idea to start *Steenstrupia* was originally promoted by Børge Petersen and Leif Lyneborg, both entomologists employed at the Zoological Museum. The main reason was the perceived need for a peer-reviewed journal in which purely taxonomic papers could be published, a need that had recently become more acute due to the decision by the editorial board of *Entomologiske Meddelelser* to change the language of that journal from English to Danish.

The focus of *Steenstrupia* has always been global and although it was founded by entomologists, vertebrate and invertebrate taxonomists contributed manuscripts to the journal from the beginning. The importance of *Steenstrupia* grew as the museum's journal exchange program expanded, providing the library of the Zoological Museum with hundreds of institutional journals at a relatively moderate cost.

The first issue of *Steenstrupia* was published on November 2, 1970. Since then the journal has printed a total of 322 papers, the great majority of them in English, although 10 papers in German and 9 in French were included during the early years.

The first editor of *Steenstrupia* was Børge Petersen (vols 1–4; 1970–78). At that time, a separate issue was published for each paper, a practice that continued until 1995. The page size was originally relatively small, about 16 by 22 cm. The next editor was the malacologist Jørgen Knudsen (vols 5–7; 1978–81), followed by the lepidopterologist Niels Peder Kristensen (vol. 8; 1982–83), who tightened the policy of the journal, preferring actual revisions to papers consisting almost entirely of the descriptions of new species.

The fourth editor of *Steenstrupia* was the myriapodologist Henrik Enghoff (vols 9–21; 1982–96), who altered the format of the journal twice. First, in 1982 the present page size, 17.5 by 24 cm, was adopted, as well as the two-column format. The final change came in 1995, when it was decided to publish two issues per year, rather than printing each paper separately.

The next editor was the carcinologist Niel L. Bruce (vols 22–23; 1997), followed by the present author, a polychaetologist (vols 23–32; 1997–2012).

In addition to these main editors, several colleagues at the Zoological Museum have served as associate editors through the years: Nils Møller Andersen, Rudolf Meier, Claus Nielsen, Jørgen G. Nielsen, Jens B. Rasmussen, Nikolaj Scharff,

Ole S. Tendal and Lars Vilhelmsen. Mary E. Petersen was the assistant editor from 1997 to 2004. Finally, Kathe R. Jensen acted as guest editor for the second issue of volume 30 in 2009, dedicated to the second editor of the journal, Jørgen Knudsen.

A full list of all papers published in *Steenstrupia* is provided at the end of this issue, along with an index of papers based on taxonomic group.

The impact of small institutional journals such as *Steenstrupia* has become increasingly difficult to maintain in recent years. For this reason, the Natural History Museum of Denmark decided in

2011 to join the consortium of European museums and institutes that publishes the *European Journal of Taxonomy*. This has the added advantage of supporting a journal that better reflects the activities of the entire museum, as the *EJT* publishes papers in the fields of paleontology, botany and mycology, in addition to the focus of *Steenstrupia*, i.e., zoology.

As the final editor of *Steenstrupia*, it is my privilege to thank all the editors, authors, reviewers and readers that have supported the journal during its life of 42 years. Taxonomic papers never die!