Introduction

In 2007 this Journal celebrates its 150th volume and its 150th birthday. Although it is not the only journal reaching this age, it is still a rare event amongst entomological journals to publish a volume every year during one and a half century, and without changing its name.

During the 150 years of the journal’s existence, society as a whole, science, as well as the entomological community, have changed considerably. Where 150 years ago written media were almost the only way of communication between scientists, as printed publications, or handwritten letters, now the printed media are often considered obsolete, and old fashioned, and communication has been taken over by the new media. The role of paper journals evidently is changing and journals have to adapt to modern ways of communication. The Tijdschrift voor Entomologie (further abbreviated as TvE) is following this trend as well by developing a website (http://www.nev.nl/tve) and providing pdf files of the published papers. The requirements for the validity of species descriptions by the Code (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999) prevents journals from completely dropping paper publication in favour of web publication, but in other fields of science this is already a fact.

In this paper we will briefly review the history of TvE, particularly with regard to changes in content, with reference to authorship, taxonomic group, topics etc.

At the occasion of the publication of this issue, we also will upgrade the TvE website with the complete index to 150 volumes, and pdf files of several recent volumes. Here we will also present some information on the methods used preparing the index for the website.

Material and methods

We examined several series of the Tijdschrift voor Entomologie, notably the bound volumes in the library of the National Museum of Natural History (http://212.0.231.237/vubissmart/vubis.csp) and the library of the Netherlands Entomological Society (http://www.nev.nl/catalogus/index.php). We also used our own incomplete series, which are partly unbound and have original covers. Other sources for the journal history are cited throughout the text.
Index

The overriding ambition of the project was to make the complete index to TvE available online. This will be presented at the publication date of this issue (1 December 2007) (www.nev.nl/tve).

All articles are in principle covered. The proceedings of the society and most of the appendices to the proceedings are included if they had a separate title. Book reviews are not fully covered. The index was stored as an EndNote® reference database. The basis for this was formed by three separate databases: first, the database of the library of the NEV that contains many early articles in TvE, entered by Willem Ellis. Secondly, R.M. Biesheuvel (Natuurmuseum Rotterdam) had scanned the table of contents of all volumes in the library of the Rotterdam museum and converted these to text with OCR software for use in their library. Thirdly, we had built an EndNote database from the digitized material of most modern volumes, including abstracts. After combining, these references were edited and several fields standardised. We added information on the language of the paper, the national affiliation of the author, (insect) orders treated and biogeographical region treated. The Netherlands are treated as a separate ‘region’, and the Palaearctic region excludes articles that are dealing with The Netherlands only.

In analyses of articles, page counts include volumes 1–149 and supplement volumes, but are exclusive of the society proceedings.

The finalized database was subsequently converted to Excel sheets for the simple statistic analyses presented here.

Brief history

The Netherlands Entomological Society, official name “De Nederlandsche Entomologische Vereeniging” (old spelling “De Nederlandse Entomologische Vereeniging”, further abbreviated as NEV), started informally after an advertisement in a Dutch newspaper at a meeting in Amsterdam, 30 August 1845. The society was finally founded on 12 October 1845 in Amsterdam, with 24 members. Many details about the history of the Society were published in fifty year intervals, unfortunately all in Dutch (Van der Wulp 1895, de Meijere 1947, Ellis 1995). Discussions on a society journal started soon, and were recorded in the minutes of the general meeting in Utrecht, 5 August 1847. However, financial constraints and the small number of members prevented an early start.

In this period, proceedings of the meetings were published in a cultural weekly magazine, “De Algemeene Konst- en Letterbode” (some volumes can be found on http://books.google.com). Reprints of the proceedings were sent to members and foreign societies. Meanwhile, an editorial committee was elected (consisting of S.C. Snellen van Vollenhoven, J. van der Hoeven and M.C. Verloren), which started to reprint the scientific part of the published meeting reports as a separate journal between 1854 and 1856, the “Handelingen der Nederlandsche Entomologische Vereeniging”, but unfortunately without the minutes of the business meeting.

Finally a publisher was found for a journal and the first issues of Volume 1 could be published in 1857. The first issue (and a prospectus) was published both with a French and Dutch title page (French title page, with title “Mémoires d’Entomologie” depicted here on the frontispiece), but the title page of the first volume bears the present name (facsimile on frontispiece in Volume 150: 1). Although the publication year of volume 1 is 1858, the first few issues were already distributed in 1857 (Barendrecht 1957).

Publication of the journal has continued with only some delay during the years of World War II, when some volumes were postponed one or more years, but finally all volumes have been published, with the result that we now celebrate volume 150.

Publication has always seen various challenges in a small country with a small entomological community. Financial problems often threatened the continuation, but thanks to grants by the state and several private and governmental foundations, as well as donations by private persons, TvE could continue to be published.

The first volumes were published by commercial publishers: volume 1 by Martinus Nijhoff (The Hague), volumes 2 to 6 by E.J. Brill (Leiden) for the Society, volume 7 by A.G. Kruseman (Haarlem) and 8–69 again bij Martinus Nijhoff (details see Barendrecht 1957, van der Wulp 1895). Since then TvE was published by the society, although there have been initial negotiations with publishers. The co-operation with Kruseman publishers was an unhappy one: not satisfied with the income, the publisher destroyed the complete stock, making original versions of volume 7 very scarce. This volume was reprinted in 1888 to complete the series for later subscribers.

During the period where the Society was the publisher, the journal was printed respectively by “Drukkerij C. de Boer”, in Den Helder (volumes 70, 1928 to 76, 1933) and from volume 77 (1934) onwards by “Drukkerij Ponsen & Looyen”, Wageningen. In the older volumes the printers’ name was printed on the back of the paper volume cover. This information is often lost in bound volumes.