

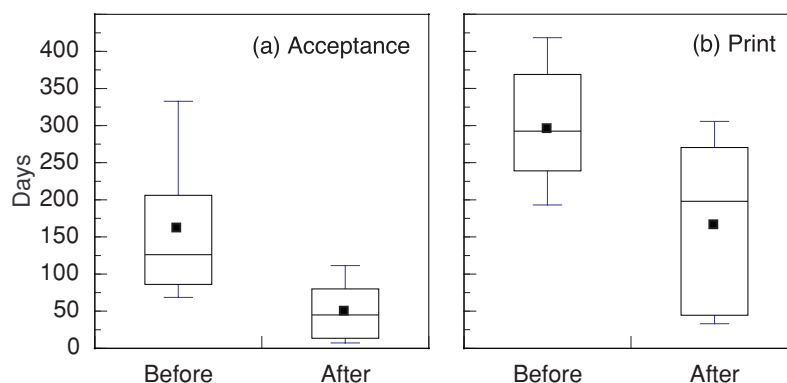
## Editorial

### Towards a faster publication process

In an editorial published in the first issue of volume 39 (Merilä & Starks 2002), we outlined new goals for the *Annales Zoologici Fennici*, and listed the changes to be implemented in 2002 necessary to meet those goals. These goals included, amongst others, an attempt to reduce the time from manuscript submission to publication. Although the switch to electronic submission and refereeing resulted in considerable time-savings from manuscript submission to acceptance (5.4 vs. 1.7 months; Fig. 1a), the time from acceptance to printing improved less (10 vs. 6 months; Fig. 1b). In order to take advantage of our rapid submission to acceptance time, we are pleased to announce that the *Annales Zoologici Fennici* will from 2003 onwards publish six, instead of four issues per volume. We expect that this will further reduce the time from acceptance to publication.

We are also pleased to report that *Annales Zoologici Fennici*'s impact factor climbed from 0.620 in 2000 to 0.824 in 2001. Although this is still far from the rating of 1994 (1.386), we are confident that the journal is moving in the right direction. Indeed, given the new editorial measures (cf. Merilä & Starks 2002), the forthcoming special issues (the second issue of 2003 will feature a number of excellent contributions around the theme of 'Extinction Thresholds'), and the expected decrease in submission to publication time resulting from the increased number of issues per volume, we anticipate that the impact factor will continue climbing in the foreseeable future.

Juha Merilä & Philip T. B. Starks



**Fig. 1.** Box-plots of (a) submission-to-acceptance and (b) acceptance-to-printing times for manuscripts printed in 2002 according to whether they were submitted before or after November 2001 when new editorial measures were introduced. Squares refer to means, horizontal lines to medians, boxes to quantiles (5% and 95%) and vertical bars depict outliers.

## Reference

Merilä & Starks 2002: New directions. — *Ann. Zool. Fennici* 39: 1.