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Another year of growth for the *Journal of Melittology*

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Abstract. A brief overview of the accomplishments of the *Journal of Melittology* during its second full year of activity is provided. A total of 18 articles comprising 283 pages were published, covering topics as varied as male swarming in a Thai stingless bee, the systematics of Andean bees, the exaggerated morphology of a male melikertine in mid-Eocene amber, and the effect of light on setal coloration and its impact on studies of behavior. The journal expanded its editorial team and its publishing capacities to include monographic works.

This month marks the second anniversary of the *Journal of Melittology* (JoM), and while we do not intend to make editorials such as this an annual event, during these formative years for the journal it seems fitting to reflect on the continued progress being made. Although this year would appear from a superficial inspection to have been rather slow for the journal, in reality many 'behind the scenes' developments have been underway and involved numerous individuals to see them through to completion. The heaviest involvement was the expansion of our publishing capabilities to include larger, monographic works, the first of which appeared this past summer (Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014). Such issues have special needs in terms of layout and production (and this is reflected in the simple appearance of such issues), and given that we operate on a budget of $0 and rely on the good will of volunteers and sponsors,

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this was a particularly momentous achievement. We are thrilled that this has come to pass and although such issues understandably require longer evaluation and review periods, and considerably greater production time prior to release, we believe that the temporary lag for the journal is well worth the result. In addition, to broaden our audiences as well as our impact to society, on 11 August we launched a Facebook page through which a growing number of followers receive updates on the journal's activity. Lastly, we have grown our editorial team with the addition in November of Ismael A. Hinojosa-Díaz of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México to our list of Assistant Editors. The role of an assistant editor with JoM poses special challenges given the strict low-cost/low-impact nature of our operation, and accordingly our selection of new editorial staff has been stringent. We appreciate the commitment of time that this reflects for all of our team members. As with most things in our world, what on the surface seems simple is actually a multiplex, its manifold components difficult to appreciate without total submersion in the task.

Based on our website statistics, JoM was visited and its papers downloaded from 88 countries between 1 January and 31 December 2014. During this same period there were 3000 visits to the JoM site and 13,284 page views. Users of JoM accessed the site primarily from desktop computers (2698 visits), although the use of mobile devices made a notable upswing from the previous year (235 visits were from smartphones, and 67 from tablets) (*vide* Engel *et al*., 2014a), with the reliance on such platforms assuredly continuing their rapid rise as they become increasingly the norm.

One of the greatest obstacles remains the accumulation of a sufficient number of issues and years of continual publication before JoM may be considered by other abstracting services such as Scopus, ISI, and others. We are tracked and our citations measured by GoogleScholar, a service that is rapidly becoming the gold standard for networking scholarly output and its associated metrics. Nonetheless, we are striving to achieve the requisite years of growth so that we might push the journal into new services, particularly those that are critical for potential authors from countries where indexing is a requirement for publication. This certainly will open the journal to an even wider audience and source of intellectual growth. Regardless, in 2014 we had 22 authors from 8 countries (U.S.A., Canada, Mexico, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Thailand) contribute to the pages of JoM, constituting 18 issues and 283 pages.

Of the 18 published issues, 78% of them were focused on systematics (*e.g*., Engel & Prado, 2014; Gibbs *et al*., 2014), with a subset of these describing 20 species as new (Ayala & Engel, 2014a, 2014b; Engel, 2014a, 2014b, 2014c; Engel *et al*., 2014b; Gonzalez *et al*., 2014a, 2014b; Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014; Kuhlmann, 2014), along with three subgenera (Engel, 2014b; Michez *et al*., 2014) and one genus, and these figures include a remarkable genus and species of extinct corbiculate apine from the Middle Eocene of Europe (Engel *et al*., 2014c) (Table 1). As is our policy, all new taxa were registered in ZooBank and in full accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature's standards for electronic validation of new zoological names (ICZN, 2012). Other papers provided detailed reviews of recent fieldguides to neotropical stingless bees (Gonzalez, 2014), an important work on the effects of light on the setal coloration of bees (Koch *et al*., 2014), male swarming in *Tetragonula laeviceps* (Smith) (Bänziger & Khamyotchai, 2014), and our first 'year-in-review' (Engel *et al*., 2014a).

The journal continues to be operated by a volunteer staff and through the support of the University of Kansas Libraries through their digital publishing services and encouragement of scholarly journals through the Open Journals System. The University

Table 1. New taxa proposed during 2014 in the *Journal of Melittology*. Daggers (†) denote fossil taxa.

Taxon	Locality	Reference
ANDRENIDAE		
Liphanthus (*Melaliphanthus*) *cuscoensis* Gonzalez, Rasmussen, & Engel	Peru	Gonzalez *et al.*, 2014a
APIDAE		
Euglossa (*Euglossella*) *ashei* Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel	Brazil, French Guiana	Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014
Euglossa (*Euglossella*) *celiae* Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel	Colombia, Ecuador	Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014
Euglossa (*Euglossella*) *cetera* Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel	Venezuela	Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014
Euglossa (*Euglossella*) *cupella* Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel	Venezuela	Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014
Euglossa (*Euglossella*) *subandina* Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel	Ecuador	Hinojosa-Díaz & Engel, 2014
†*Mochlomelikertes* Engel, Breitkreuz, & Ohl		Engel *et al.*, 2014c
†*Mochlomelikertes hoffeinsorum* Engel, Breitkreuz, & Ohl	Baltic amber	Engel *et al.*, 2014c
Nogueirapis costaricana Ayala & Engel	Costa Rica	Ayala & Engel, 2014b
Thyreus garouensis Engel	Cameroon	Engel, 2014c
COLLETIDAE		
Colletes kinabalu Kuhlmann	Borneo	Kuhlmann, 2014
Lonchopria (*Biglossa*) *comforti* Gonzalez & Engel	Colombia	Gonzalez *et al.*, 2014b
Ptiloglossa chamelensis Ayala & Engel	Mexico	Ayala & Engel, 2014a

Table 1. Continued.

Taxon	Locality	Reference
HALICTIDAE		
Caenaugochlora (*Metaugochlora*) Engel		Engel, 2014b
Caenaugochlora (*Caenaugochlora*) *elpidia* Engel	Venezuela	Engel, 2014a
Caenaugochlora (*Caenaugochlora*) *gonzalezi* Engel	Colombia	Engel, 2014b
Caenaugochlora (*Caenaugochlora*) *hestia* Engel	Panama	Engel, 2014b
Caenaugochlora (*Caenaugochlora*) *leoi* Engel	Costa Rica	Engel, 2014b
Caenaugochlora (*Caenaugochlora*) *pantochlora* Engel	Venezuela	Engel, 2014a
Chlerogella anchicaya Engel, Gonzalez, & Hinojosa-Díaz	Colombia	Engel *et al*., 2014b
MELITTIDAE		
Melitta (*Afromelitta*) Michez & Kuhlmann		Michez *et al*., 2014
Melitta (*Afromelitta*) *richtersveldensis* Michez & Kuhlmann	South Africa	Michez *et al*., 2014
Melitta (*Plesiomelitta*) Michez & Kuhlmann		Michez *et al*., 2014
Melitta (*Plesiomelitta*) *avontuurensis* Michez & Kuhlmann	South Africa	Michez *et al*., 2014

of Kansas Libraries not only contributes and maintains our technological capacities, they have been instrumental in developing independent archiving through Portico (an initiative undertaken for all University of Kansas digital media, and which includes JoM). The Open Journals System has made it possible to effectively and quickly manage manuscripts, and through the input of a diverse pool of reviewers who made timely reports, we have been able to produce issues with no cost to authors or readers. We are committed to the belief that the published results of scholarship should be made free to all, and not hidden to all but the privileged behind proprietary 'bindings'. All of the aforementioned have permitted us to implement this philosophy with success. Lastly, we remain thankful for the enthusiastic support of our families who tolerate our sometimes off hours and late nights attending to JoM.

For the coming year the JoM team will continue the exploration of new capacities. We are investigating through the University of Kansas Libraries the application of digital object identifiers (DOI) that may be implemented with all issues, including those already archived. Again, this avenue of development poses particular challenges for a cost-free operation such as JoM but is something to which we are dedicating considerable time, among other advancements. The last year was another success for the world's first Open Access and wholly free journal dedicated to the global diversity of bees, and there is every reason to believe that 2015 shall only see that evolution continue unabated.

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Journal of Melittology

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The *Journal of Melittology* is an international, open access journal that seeks to rapidly disseminate the results of research conducted on bees (Apoidea: Anthophila) in their broadest sense. Our mission is to promote the understanding and conservation of wild and managed bees and to facilitate communication and collaboration among researchers and the public worldwide. The *Journal* covers all aspects of bee research including but not limited to: anatomy, behavioral ecology, biodiversity, biogeography, chemical ecology, comparative morphology, conservation, cultural aspects, cytogenetics, ecology, ethnobiology, history, identification (keys), invasion ecology, management, melittopalynology, molecular ecology, neurobiology, occurrence data, paleontology, parasitism, phenology, phylogeny, physiology, pollination biology, sociobiology, systematics, and taxonomy.

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