

# Preface

## WE'RE BACK

...after a long and unintended absence of several years, therefore a short explanation.

As an editorial group, most of us started with the Dutch terrarium periodical 'Lacerta' after having been asked to help rejuvenate that journal. Our motivation was to provide amateurs and professionals alike with reliable information concerning husbandry of reptiles and amphibians. Over the years we encouraged a shift in submissions from anecdotal to more scientific material. Since most of us had biological training at university level, it was only natural that we encouraged a more professional attitude in terrarium keeping. At the same time, we intended to keep the papers accessible to the layperson. To further substantiate our ambition internationally, we founded the herpetological e-zine Pod@rcis in 2000. The emphasis is on reproduction in terraria, terrarium keeping techniques, and field observations. We also publish book reviews, travel accounts, news briefs and lighter material.

At the start Pod@rcis was the first webzine devoted to amphibian and reptile husbandry. During the first five years the webzine appeared in a bi-lingual format: Dutch and English. We aim for a world-wide audience, with reader and contributor in the unique position of no longer being restricted by political or linguistic barriers. From volume 6 onwards, the publication switched to English only, but certainly still offers the option of summaries in other languages. Rarely writers may present the text additionally in other modern languages. Manuscripts are edited in consultation with the author(s), often with the help of external expertise. The language, flow and grammar are checked by native speakers. This ensures that our readers and authors alike receive verified information.

And then life intervened: as most of us were, and are, in more or less the same age group, we encountered similar problems – e.g., job changes, health issues and the care of (elderly) relatives. The choice between loved ones and the webzine was unavoidable but time has passed and now we are back with unbridled enthusiasm. Nevertheless, we still experience an unfortunate lack of younger enthusiasts. If you are interested in helping to address this uneven age distribution in our technical or editorial board, or as an author, please do contact us.

To avoid confusion in the numbering sequence, this volume (and the later ones) will be named Pod@rcis n.s. [new series] 10, logically following the previous volume 9 from several years ago. When applicable, each year will continue to be separated into issues 1, 2, 3... We do not charge for the webzine. However, a small monetary contribution from any of our readers or authors would be highly appreciated to help cover the costs of running the webzine.

Back in 2000 we deposited the webzine in PDF format in various major libraries throughout the world. A recent search indicated that in some of these libraries, we seem to have disappeared. Any assistance from our readers and authors to help in depositing the journal in your institutional library, where it can be freely available to all at no costs, would be very much appreciated.

To conclude, we intend to propagate fine and thorough papers and aim to function as an appropriate medium for everyone who wishes to share fascinating information on herpetology and terrarium keeping. Do get in touch!

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