

A decade of Systematic & Applied Acarology

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A decade of Systematic & Applied Acarology

Systematic & Applied Acarology (SAA) was founded in 1996 and has been continuously published by the Systematic & Applied Acarology Society (SAAS), whose main mission is to promote the development of acarology and communication among acarologists around the world.

The initial aim of SAA was quite modest, to encourage Chinese acarologists to publish in English, although it was designed to be an international journal as the name implies. With the support and participation of acarologists around the world, SAA has since become a major international journal. This is evident in the quantity, quality and wide subject range of acarological papers published in SAA during the last ten years. In the next few pages, I will summarise the number and type of papers published, the number and distributions of authors and the number of new mite taxa published in SAA over the last ten years.

Number and type of papers

Each volume of SAA consists of 27.3 items in 202 pages on average (Table 1). A total of nine review papers, 258 articles and six editorial items have been published in ten years. Most of the papers (64%) are on systematics, morphology and/or evolution, 29% of the papers are on biology, ecology and/or control, and only 7% of the papers are on biochemistry, physiology and/or toxicology (Table 1). This large representation by papers on systematic acarology is very much a reflection of the current state of our science due to the large number of undescribed taxa.

TABLE 1. A summary of papers published during 1996–2005 in *Systematic & Applied Acarology*.

Year	Number of papers of different types						Number of pages	
	Review	Editorial	Biochemistry, physiology, toxicology	Biology, ecology pest control	Systematics, morphology, evolution	Total	Total	Per paper
1996	0	1	3	8	16	28	202	7.2
1997	3	1	5	12	20	41	249	6.1
1998	3	0	0	15	14	32	191	6
1999	0	0	4	10	15	29	189	6.5
2000	0	0	1	5	18	24	196	8.2
2001	0	1	3	7	20	31	197	6.4
2002	1	0	3	5	14	23	204	8.7
2003	1	1	0	6	12	20	204	10.2
2004	0	1	0	4	22	27	195	7.2
2005	1	1	0	2	14	18	194	10.8
Average	0.9	0.6	1.9	7.4	16.5	27.3	202.1	7.4
Total	9	6	19	74	165	273	2021	-

The proportions of papers on different subjects varied over the years. Non-systematics papers increased to high levels during 1997 and 1999 (e.g. in 1998 there were 15 papers on biology etc. and

14 papers on systematics etc.) and then decreased. This might be a reflection of decreased support for applied acarologists.

Number and distribution of authors

The number of authors each year varied considerably over the years, with an average of 53 (Table 2). International representation increased over the years; during 1996–1999, less than 10 countries were represented in each volume and authors from China were the majority, but during 2002–2005, 14–17 countries from all continents were represented in each volume and authors from China were a minority. For an average year, 26 papers are contributed by 53 authors from over 11 countries around the world. This is an indication that SAA has become an international journal.

TABLE 2. A summary of authors in *Systematic & Applied Acarology* during 1996–2005.

	Number of authors	Number of countries (continents)	Country of highest representation (%)	Number of single-authored papers	Number of multi-authored papers	Proportion of international collaborative papers*
1996	50	7 (4)	China (78)	6	21	29
1997	81	7 (5)	China (74)	6	32	19
1998	69	7 (5)	China (83)	4	28	21
1999	58	6 (5)	China (74)	7	21	33
2000	39	10 (5)	China (44)	4	20	15
2001	54	8 (5)	China (69)	9	18	11
2002	46	15 (6)	China (37)	5	17	47
2003	45	17 (6)	Argentina (13)	3	16	44
2004	56	17 (6)	China (31)	4	21	38
2005	32	14 (6)	China (28)	3	14	57
Average	53	11.8 (4.4)	-	5.1	20.8	31.4
Total	-	-	-	51	208	-

* a / b, where a= number of multi-authored papers that have authors from different countries; b = number of multi-authored papers.

Single-authored papers account for only 20% of the total. Thus, most papers have been collaborative efforts, and among these only a small number (31%) have been written by authors from different countries. However, the last four years have seen considerable increases in international collaboration by SAA authors.

Over the last ten years, SAA has been continuously supported by a group of productive authors from around the world :

13 authors each with 5–10 papers: Baker, A.S. (UK, 5 papers); Flechtmann, C.H.W. (Brazil, 5 papers); Gerson, U. (Israel, 6 papers); Goldarazean, A. (Spain, 8 papers); Guglielmone, A.A. (Argentina, 9 papers); Haitlinger, R. (Poland, 9 papers); Hong, X.Y. (China, 6 papers); Ji, J. (China, 7 papers); Moraes, G.J. de (Brazil, 8 papers); Wu, W.N. (China, 7 papers); Xu, R.M (China, 5 papers); Zhao, Z.M. (China, 5 papers); Zhu, Z.M. (China, 5 papers).

6 authors each with over 10 papers: Fan, Q.H. (China, 12 papers); Lin, J.-Z. (China, 21 papers); Saboori, A. (Iran, 27 papers); Wen, T.H. (China, 21 papers); Zhang, Y.X. (China, 18 papers); Zhang, Z.Q. (UK, New Zealand, 32 papers).

Number of new mite taxa published

Given the fact that most mites are not yet described, descriptions of new taxa are major tasks for acarologists. During the last four years, 210 new mite taxa were described in SAA, including 180 new species-group taxa, 27 new genus-group taxa and four new family-group taxa (Table 3).

TABLE 3. A summary of new mite taxa published in *Systematic & Applied Acarology* during 1996–2005.

	Species-group	Genus-group	Family-group	Total
1996	15	2	0	17
1997	15	0	0	15
1998	10	1	3	14
1999	19	12	0	31
2000	25	2	0	27
2001	32	2	0	34
2002	15	4	1	20
2003	10	0	0	10
2004	24	1	0	25
2005	15	3	0	18
Average	18	2.7	0.4	21
Total	180	27	4	211

Future directions

From 2004, full texts of all papers in PDF have been made available online. We intend to place all back volumes online in the near future. Sustaining members who pay for the print edition of SAA can also access full text online. If you need passwords, please contact me.

There was a plan to increase the frequency of SAA in 2004 and 2005, but this was not possible due to a lack of accepted papers in the first half of the year as many authors submit papers a few months before mid-year. To avoid delays of papers accepted after mid-year, we plan to publish at least two issues in 2006. The first issue will appear in the first quarter of 2006.

SAA is the only major international acarological journal published by an international society. As a not-for-profit journal, its subscription rate is much lower than other international acarological journals and is the best value for subscribers (Table 4). Up to now, there has been a lack of resources within SAAS to promote the journal among acarologists and to increase its subscription base. We welcome other acarological societies to work with us in providing cost-effective publication outlets for acarologists worldwide.

TABLE 4. A comparison of subscription rates of four international journals of acarology (1994).

	Number of pages	Price (individual)	Price (Institutional)	Price/page
Systematic & Applied Acarology	200	US\$35	US\$78	US\$0.39
Experimental & Applied Acarology	836	n/a	US\$1432	US\$1.70
International Journal of Acarology	390	US\$100	US\$880	US\$2.26
Acarologia	260	Euro 110	Euro 165	Euro 0.63

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Zhi-Qiang Zhang
Editor-in-Chief
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