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EDITORIAL NOTE

Organizational Changes

An additional number of the Brazilian Journal of Biology has been included in the current issue. Consequently, the editorial board anticipates a further reduction in the period between acceptance of papers and their publication.

In other news, two changes have been adopted by the board: first, BJB contents will be classified in two main areas: ecology and biology; second, the editorial board has been separated into two parts: the editorial board and the executive editorial board. This modification is intended to accelerate operational activity and expedite operational-level decisions.

Comments

Published in 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment synthesizes and integrates findings related to biodiversity in all terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. In this document, the results were summarized as follows:

“Biodiversity contributes directly (through provisioning, regulating, and cultural ecosystem services) and indirectly (through supporting ecosystem services) to many constituents of human well-being, including security, basic material for a good life, health, good social relations, and freedom of choice and action. Many people have benefited over the last century from the conversion of natural ecosystems to human-dominated ecosystems and the exploitation of biodiversity. At the same time, however, these losses in biodiversity and changes in ecosystem services have caused some people to experience declining well-being, with poverty in some social groups being exacerbated”.

In keeping with these conclusions, the BJB will continue to make a strenuous effort to publish the greatest number of peer-reviewed and high-quality research results presently available on Neotropical biodiversity. This service is essential not only in expanding the frontiers of present knowledge, but also in determining biodiversity's role in the functioning of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. In addition, as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment indicates, a crucial economic component is involved, which must be taken into account.

Editorial Board