

Frontiers of Biogeography, a new frontier for the IBS

Welcome to the first issue of *Frontiers of Biogeography - the scientific magazine of the International Biogeography Society*. The birth of this publication marks another major stage in the growth of the Society, one that reflects on our history and looks to the future. The magazine results from joining two prior publications: [1] the *IBS newsletter*, which grew from an update of Society business in 2003 to a publication on current affairs in biogeography by 2008, and [2] the *Frontiers of Biogeography* series, initiated by Mark Lomolino and Lawrence Heaney to publish the symposia of the first annual meeting of the IBS (see Heaney and Lomolino this issue). In conjoining, the magazine will fulfil the goal of the original *Frontiers of Biogeography* book: to provide a series of integrative and interdisciplinary volumes published and developed in association with the International Biogeography Society (Lomolino and Heaney 2004).

The title, *Frontiers of Biogeography*, was chosen to convey the message that this publication will follow the lead of its predecessors, including diverse contributions on the state-of-the-art and the future of research in biogeography plus its practical application. The magazine aims to distinguish itself from existing biogeography journals by providing an eminent forum for syntheses and prospectives that will push forward the boundaries of biogeography philosophy and practice. We aim to demonstrate not simply how biogeography is being done – existing journals already do this wonderfully – but rather to offer insights into how it has been, and how it might be, done. *Frontiers of Biogeography* will, therefore, publish texts that include new ideas, novel ways to think about existing information, and innovative ways to practice biogeography rather than studies collecting new data which are the cornerstones of existing journals. You can see a condensed description of the sections in the next page. We aim to foster discussion across the field by bringing together diverse topics under one title, and to promote debate by publishing substantiated but perhaps controversial opinions.

The subtitle, ‘the scientific magazine of the International Biogeography Society’ was chosen to communicate that this will be a place where you – whatever your walk of life – can find rigorous science in an easy-to-read format. Everyone is busy, so our goal is to bring a sample of the best in biogeography to you. By adopting a lighter reading format, we aim to bridge gaps between researchers, practitioners, and those with different interests. The magazine is created by and for biogeographers of all kinds: graduate students, post-docs, faculty, and other researchers who study the geography of nature, including ecologists, evolutionary biologists, paleontologists and conservation biologists. It can only be a success if it continues the tradition of the International Biogeography Society, *IBS Newsletter*, and *Frontiers of Biogeography* book of engaging junior and senior biogeographers around the globe. As well as reading and enjoying the magazine, we hope you will contribute!

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References

- Heaney, L.R. & Lomolino, M.V. (2009) From the Foundations to the Frontiers of Biogeography. *Frontiers of Biogeography*, 1, 3-4.
- Lomolino, M.V. & Heaney, L.R. (eds.). (2004) *Frontiers of Biogeography: New Directions in the Geography of Nature*. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA.

General aims and sections

Frontiers of biogeography aims to be a forum for biogeographers and a way to disseminate research in biogeography to a broader audience. As such, we welcome any contributions coming from biogeographers or other persons interested in biogeography or applying biogeographical knowledge, either members of the International Biogeography Society (IBS) or not.

Our scope includes research updates and mini-reviews, opinions and perspectives, interviews, articles on how to teach, disseminate and/or apply biogeographical knowledge, but not original research results based on data. Regular research papers based on new data and analyses should be submitted to other journals.

Due to its diversity of objectives, *Frontiers of Biogeography* includes a number of sections of varied aims and focus:

- *News and update* aims to provide a digest on the most recent research, including easy-to-read digests of current state of the art, and more technical content including commentaries, dissertation abstracts, book reviews or summaries of workshops and symposia.
- *Profiles* will include interviews of high-profile biogeographers, or thematic series of interviews, such as the currently ongoing conservation biogeography forum.
- The *Opinion and Perspectives* section is intended to be a forum for debate, publishing papers that question current lines of research, theories, methodologies or 'schools of thought', or summaries of the *Perspectives* of established researchers on broad areas of research.
- Other section intends to announce, highlight and promote the new *Resources* available for research in biogeography or the dissemination of biogeographical knowledge. This section will also host summaries of the state of the art on varied topics in the form of *Mini-reviews*, allowing an up-to-date general knowledge of the

diversity of research subjects that compose modern biogeography, and helping students and/or professionals to start working in a new topic.

- General and easy-to-read knowledge on many biogeographical matters will be provided by *Agora*, a section providing digest articles where research in biogeography is explained in an easy way, and articles on how to communicate and teach biogeography.
- Being also a service of the IBS, the journal will include a *Membership corner* with information for the members and IBS activities, and will also accept general *Announcements* on forthcoming meetings, courses, etc.

Before preparing a manuscript for *Frontiers of biogeography*, please identify the type of article you intend to submit, and whether a pre-submission enquiry is required or not. Complete editorial information with instructions for authors is provided at http://www.biogeography.org/html/fb_authors.html. Submissions of pictures or maps independently from articles are also welcome. Submissions and enquiries should be done by e-mail to the editor-in-chief through the e-mails ibs@mncn.csic.es or frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com.

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Your participation in **frontiers of biogeography** is encouraged. Please send us your articles, comments and/or reviews, as well as pictures, drawings and/or cartoons. We are also open to suggestions on content and/or structure.

Please check <http://www.biogeography.org/html/fb.html> for more information, or contact us at ibs@mncn.csic.es and frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com.