

A brief history of *Parasitology* Supplements and Special Issues

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INTRODUCTION

Parasitology has had a long and constructive association with the British Society for Parasitology (BSP). The BSP was formed in April 1962 with a policy to hold two meetings a year, an open residential meeting in the Spring and a symposium on a specialist topic in the Autumn. From its very beginning it was the intention of the BSP to publish the proceedings of its Autumn meeting and the first 18 symposia (1962–1979) were published by Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford. These proceedings were originally edited by Angela Taylor who was joined in 1969–70 by Ralph Muller as co-editor. In 1980 it was decided to break with Blackwells and to publish the proceedings in *Parasitology*: a bold move instigated and supported by the editors, David Crompton and Bruce Newton. Another significant departure from tradition initiated at this time was that symposia organisers themselves became guest editors and were responsible for producing the final edited copy of the proceedings, assisted initially by Taylor and Muller. The 19th Symposium, held in October 1981 at the Zoological Society of London, became the first of such proceedings to be published in *Parasitology* as a Supplement to part 4 of volume **84** (1982). As it was published in the CUP/*Parasitology* house style it was readily distinguishable from the earlier Blackwell editions. By 1982 *Parasitology* was publishing two volumes each year and from 1982 to 1985 the Autumn Symposia were published as Part 4 of volumes **84**, **86**, **88** and **90** of *Parasitology*. The new-look Supplements thus became an integral part of every other volume within which they were paginated but they could also be purchased separately. In 1985, the Editors of *Parasitology*, Frank Cox and Phil Whitfield, became concerned that the late arrival of copy from the symposia was in danger of delaying the publication of subsequent parts of *Parasitology* and decided that the BSP Symposia should be published as Supplements with separate pagination. This decision made it possible to publish more than one supplement each year and in 1989 the first

supplement of this kind, identified as a Special Issue, was published following a very successful BSP Symposium in association with the Linnean Society on Research and Developments in the Study of Parasitic Infections. Apart from this one-off Supplement and a selection of the proceedings of the EMOP meeting held in Cambridge in 1980, the proceedings of the Autumn Symposia of BSP were the only Supplements produced between 1982 and 1992. In 1992, *Parasitology* began to publish two Supplements each year; the first being the proceedings of the Autumn Symposium in about the June following the actual meeting and a Special Issue in about December. Both Supplements had separate and distinctive covers to distinguish them from the regular issues of *Parasitology* and could, as before, be purchased separately. These Special Issues were commissioned by the journal editors, Chris Arme and Frank Cox, in conjunction with the Editorial Board and were not normally associated with a scientific meeting, but were collections of invited review papers on selected ‘cutting-edge’ topics. Thus both volumes of the journal now included a Supplement, distinguishable from the regular issues by the use of a prefix S for the page numbers of each paper. Not everyone regarded this prefix S, which first appeared in 1986, as a valuable asset and some felt it might even be interpreted as pejorative, diminishing the perceived status of the review papers.

The latest changes to the Supplements were effected as recently as 2007 when, under the editorship of Stephen Phillips, Robin Gasser and myself, the journal moved to a run of 12 monthly issues in a single volume plus 2 inclusive Supplements. The latter are now paginated continuously within each volume, the S page prefix has been dispensed with and they are referred to as ‘Special Issues’ to distinguish them from the previous ‘Supplements’. The new Special Issues still feature the proceedings of the BSP Autumn Symposium and a specially commissioned issue of topical interest. Both Special Issues are populated largely with review papers, although the occasional original research paper has been included. The prime objective of the Special Issues is to produce a timely review series of practical value to active researchers and as an introduction to

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key areas of the discipline for taught undergraduate and post-graduate students. Throughout the history of the Supplements, the concept of 'parasite' has been extended from time to time to include papers on bacteria, viruses and fungi; this somewhat liberal interpretation of the term 'parasite' continues in the new Special Issues. The tick biology Supplement (Volume **129**, 2004) has perhaps set a precedent by being published as a book by CUP in 2008, and this leads to the possibility that some of our future Special Issues may well serve the broader scientific community as textbooks as well as part of the journal with its more restrictive readership.

Below is the complete list of Supplements and Special Issues of *Parasitology* from 1982 to the present day. Special Issues that are currently in preparation or in the development stage include, cultivation of helminths, cellular interactions in trypanosomiasis, schistosome control strategies, drug discovery and parasite systematics. Furthermore, *Parasitology* is very pleased to continue its long

association with the BSP by publishing the proceedings of future Autumn and possibly other symposia. The editors of *Parasitology* are convinced that these Supplements/Special Issues add considerably to the depth and breadth of the journal and as such they are committed to encouraging leading parasitologists to become involved in producing and/or contributing to future review-based editions.

I first became involved with the Supplements in 1987 when it was decided to relieve Liz Painter from the added burden of handling the 12 regular issues per year as well as the additional two supplementary issues. I agreed to take this editorial role on for a short period, but that was over 20 years ago and some 41 Supplements and Special Issues later. I have had the privilege of working alongside a great many eminent colleagues as guest editors and authors, and it remains my fervent hope that members of the parasitology community have found and will continue to find a real use for these parts of the journal both in their teaching and in their research.

SUPPLEMENTS AND SPECIAL ISSUES FROM 1982 TO THE PRESENT DAY

The number in bold is the volume number of the journal with which the Supplement is associated while the numbers in parentheses refer to the volume of the BSP Symposium. Supplements lacking this latter number are Special Issues.

Supplements and Special Issues published by CUP

- 1982 Parasites as biological control agents (Anderson and Canning) **84** (19)
- 1983 The reproductive biology of parasites (Whitfield) **86** (20)
- 1984 Parasite evasion of the immune response (Parkhouse) **88** (21)
- 1985 Chemotherapy of parasites (Denham) **90** (22)
- 1986 Parasites and molecular biology: applications of new techniques (Simpson) **92** (23)
- 1987 Pathophysiological responses to parasites (Rose and McLaren) **94** (24)
- 1988 Molecular transfer across parasite membranes (Arme) **96** (25)
- 1989 Vaccines and vaccination strategies (McLaren) **98** (26)
- Research developments in the study of parasitic infections (Anderson, Facer and Rollinson) **99**
- 1990 The evolutionary biology of parasitism (Keymer and Read) **100** (27)
- 1991 Parasite neurobiology (Halton) **102** (28)
- 1992 Human parasitic disease: the complementary roles of field and laboratory studies (Bundy) **104** (29)
- Chemotherapy and the immune system (Chappell and Doenhoff) **105**
- 1993 The impact of global change on disease (Hominick) **106** (30)
- Human nutrition and parasitic infection (Crompton) **107**
- 1994 Functional molecules on the surface of protozoan parasites (Smith) **108** (31)
- Parasites and behaviour (Sukhdeo) **109**
- 1995 Parasite vaccines (Tomley and Taylor) **110** (32)
- Ecology of wildlife host-parasite interactions (Grenfell) **111**
- 1996 Genetics of host and parasite: implications for immunity, epidemiology and evolution (Wakelin and Walliker) **112** (33)
- Molecular biochemistry and physiology of helminth neuromuscular systems (Halton) **113**
- 1997 Molecular basis of drug design and resistance (Coombs and Croft) **114** (34)
- Survival of parasites, microbes and tumours: strategies for evasion, manipulation and exploitation of the immune response (Doenhoff and Chappell) **115**
- 1998 Parasite-insect interactions: reciprocal manipulations (Hurd and Lane) **116** (35)
- Infectious disease diagnosis (Smith and Stimson) **117**
- 1999 Exploring parasite genomes (Rollinson and Blackwell) **118** (36)
- Parasite adaptation to environmental constraints (Tinsley) **119**

- 2000 Veterinary parasitology: recent developments in immunology, epidemiology and control (Martin and Schallig) **120** (37)
Controlling intestinal helminths while eliminating lymphatic filariasis (Stephenson, Holland and Ottesen) **121**
- 2001 Concomitant infections (Cox) **122**
Flukes and snails revisited (Rollinson) **123**
- 2002 Parasites in marine systems (Poulin) **124**
Parasite variation – immunological and ecological significance (Viney and Read) **125** (38)
- 2003 Parasitism and environmental pollution: parasites and hosts as indicators of water quality (Lewis and Hoole) **126** (39)
Echinococcosis: transmission biology and epidemiology (Craig and McManus) **127**
- 2004 The application of genomic technology to combat parasitic disease (Matthews, Melville and Turner) **128** (40)
Ticks: biology, disease and control (Bowman and Nuttall) **129**
- 2005 Subversion of immune cell signalling by parasites (Harnett) **130** (41)
Parasite neuromusculature and its utility as a drug target (Maule and Day) **131**
- 2006 Programmed cell death and the protozoan parasite (Hurd, Welburn and Williams) **132** (42)
Parasite vaccines (Knox) **133**
- 2007 Parasites in pregnancy (Wastling and Craig) **134** (43)
Markers for anthelmintic resistance (Pritchard and Geary) **134** (proceedings of the first CARS workshop, ICOPA XI)
- 2008 Parasitic co-infections: challenges and solutions (Booth, Graham and Viney) **135** (44)
Mathematical modelling of parasitic infections: from data and parameter estimation to evolutionary implications (Basáñez) **135**

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