

Why we need a new journal in diversity and conservation

It is not difficult to imagine humankind as stewards and custodians of the vast, complex, unique, and awe-inspiring property called Planet Earth. We are duty-bound to take good care of this priceless property, for our own well-being, and for the well-being of our future generations. We take stock of the value of our property by understanding its fragile biodiversity; and we safeguard its value by monitoring and protecting it. Just as a piece of real estate is livable only if it is well-supported by utilities and other municipal services, we have a duty to ensure that the natural habitats and the crucial ecological services they provide are in tip-top conditions. This requires a deep understanding how an intricate, vibrant, and resilient ecosystem works, and how natural forces and man-made decisions can impact its sustainability, both positively and negatively.

Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation (ZRDC)—the newly launched journal here—will provide a platform to meet these needs. It allows you to record your most exciting discoveries among life on earth, and the factors that can either enhance or undermine the delicate balance in the ecosystems. ZRDC is funded and hosted in Kunming City, where the proposal of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was first seeded. The journal ZRDC, together with Kunming City, will want to play a pivotal role in exchanging information on the implementation of the GBF, and to engage in regional and international discussions over issues such as halting and reversing nature loss, optimizing natural resource conservation, and meeting the goals and targets of the GBF. Already, the rich biological diversity in Kunming serves as a cornerstone to the implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative—by providing a fertile ground for taxonomic research, conservation planning, capacity building, and international collaboration. The city's natural wealth contributes to the broader goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity in promoting sustainable development and the conservation of global biodiversity.

ZRDC is an open-access, multidisciplinary international journal published quarterly by the Kunming Institute of Zoology (KIZ) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Buttressed by research articles, reviews, editorials, commentaries, opinions, short communications, and letters, it seeks to become a high-profile, fast-turnover journal covering topics ranging from invertebrate and vertebrate diversity,

behavior, adaptation, evolution, ecology, to wildlife monitoring and management, conservation genetics, canonical and modern molecular biological technology application in biological conservation and resources protection. ZRDC will document major advances in theoretical and technical animal diversity research, resolve universally significant and cutting-edge scientific questions, and contribute to the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature and the synergistic development of society and the environment, with the hope that all countries on Earth will work together to safeguard biodiversity and, together, build an ecologically sustainable future.

ZRDC is a sister publication of the prestigious *Zoological Research (ZR)*. In recent years, ZR has been categorized as a JCR Q1 journal, attaining an impact factor of 6.975 and 4.9 in 2021 and 2022 respectively, ranking second among the 176 SCI journals within the Zoology category in both years. Among the many significant discoveries that ZR has featured are research breakthroughs in single-cell analyses, animal models, neuroscience, genetics and evolution, immunology, peptide toxins and other aspects of toxicology, and many other advances in multidisciplinary sciences.

ZRDC aims to become another journal of excellence, setting standards that are as rigorous as ZR if not higher. An editorial board consisting of over 90 internationally renowned scientists with expertise in various areas of biological diversity and nature conservation has been established. We welcome your scholarly contributions in these two areas of studies. In this inaugural issue of ZRDC, four papers and four letters to the editor are published, including papers on mammals (Li et al., 2024) and birds (Wu et al., 2024) from Gaoligong Mountain in China; new fish species from East China Sea (Zhang et al., 2024), the challenges of primate conservation in China (Li et al., 2024), genetic variations of island populations of Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) in China (Gu & Li, 2024), whether Chinese pangolins (*Manis pentadactyla*) are functionally extinct in mainland China (Liu et al., 2024), validating hypotheses of species distribution (Hou & Li, 2024), and biodiversity metrics on ecological networks (Ma & Li, 2024).

In 2013, during the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly, March 3rd was declared as World Wildlife Day. It is with great pride and purpose that we announce the inaugural issue of the ZRDC on March 3rd, 2024. On this auspicious occasion, we dedicate the launch of ZRDC to World Wildlife Day. All in all, we look forward to your contributions to ZRDC. On behalf of the ZRDC editorial team, we wish you all a very happy and fulfilling new year.



Yong-Gang Yao, Editor-in-Chief
*Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of
Sciences, Kunming, Yunnan 650223, China*

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Copyright ©2024 Editorial Office of Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences



Xue-Long Jiang, Co-Editor-in-Chief
Kunming Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of
Sciences, Kunming, Yunnan 650223, China



Shu-Qiang Li, Co-Editor-in-Chief
Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing
100101, China

REFERENCES

- Gu NX, Liu Y. 2024. Genetic evaluations of island populations of Rhesus Macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) in China: Implications for conservation management. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 75–78.
- Hou ZE, Li SQ. 2024. Integrative biogeography: Validating hypotheses of species distribution. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 86–88.
- Li BG, Zhang H, Li M, et al. 2024. Achievements and challenges of primate conservation in China. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 66–74.
- Li Q, Li XY, Hu WQ, et al. 2024. Mammals of Gaoligong Mountain in China: Diversity, distribution, and conservation. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 3–19.
- Liu ZC, Cen P, Sun JK, et al. 2024. Chinese pangolins (*Manis pentadactyla*) are not functionally extinct in Chinese Mainland. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 79–81.
- Ma Z, Li L. 2024. Biodiversity metrics on ecological networks: demonstrated with animal gastrointestinal microbiomes. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 51–65.
- Wu F, Gao JY, Yan D, et al. 2024. Bird species composition and conservation challenges in the Gaoligong Mountains, one of the most diverse bird areas in the world. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 20–50.
- Zhang RR, Yang K, Luo D, et al. 2024. A new species of *Bostrychus* (Gobiiformes: Eleotridae) from the East China Sea. *Zoological Research: Diversity and Conservation*. 1(1): 82–85.