

Editorial

In this issue our invited review article by Bergljót Magnúsdóttir, “The immune response of Atlantic cod, *Gadus morhua* L.”, highlights the importance of basic research in this field as only by thoroughly understanding the immune characteristics of a species can effective vaccination and other preventive measures be taken. Understanding of infectious fish diseases and the causative agents has been growing rapidly in recent years among the international scientific community. At the same time there has been a parallel increase in knowledge of host-pathogen interactions, including fish immunology and genome analysis of several fish species and their pathogens. The genome of the cod has recently been fully sequenced and discoveries based on the findings call on a novel approach in vaccine development for cod aquaculture. The information on the cod genome reveals an immune system that has not been seen before in jawed vertebrates. The recent genetic discoveries in the genomes are also of importance in understanding the evolution of the immune system and the consequences of genetic defects in the immune system.

The Atlantic cod is generally better known to be one of the economically most important ocean fish species but now cod is becoming an important factor in fish farming in some northern countries. Bergljót Magnúsdóttir has devoted her research life to fish and fish health and has taken part in and led a number of national and international research projects and we are. We are pleased that she accepted our invitation to write this review.

In this issue we have full research articles on cold acclimation in winter wheat, on suspended dust under low wind condition, on analysis of the history and population structure of the Icelandic horse, on phosphorus fractionation in soils, on birch hybridization in North-east Iceland and on biomass allometries and coarse root biomass distribution of mountain birch. We also have two short communications on a method for predicting gross primary production and on typhlocolitis in a horse infected with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

This once again reflects the broad spectrum we cover though we remain pretty strict on the relevance to the colder climates. Since our approval by ISI Web of Knowledge, visibility in Scopus and other search machines together with our open access policy we are receiving a large number of manuscripts from warmer countries that are outside our scope. For this issue 27/2014 we rejected 32 manuscripts because their subject matter was out of our scope but we also had to reject 5 manuscripts after revision. With 9 articles published this is a fairly high rate of rejection. Most of the articles accepted for reviewing are from Icelandic researchers or people working in Iceland. This means that finding independent reviewers within the country is difficult and in the last couple of years most of our reviewers have been from other countries. We are much obliged to all our reviewers and their selfless work.

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