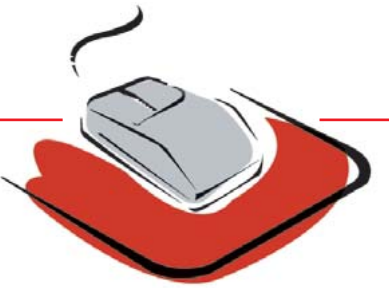

Towards paper-free publications

The increasing rate at which publications are appearing makes the work involved in writing reviews or syntheses greater. Also, space constraints, even in review journals, mean that articles cannot be comprehensive. Even if they were, in these times of environmental awareness, it is hard to justify many pages of references, which are only repeated in the next synthesis.

An internet site, such as the Diving Database (http://polaris.nipr.ac.jp/~penguin/penguiness/), which documents the diving capacities of air-breathing animals, offers a possible solution to this problem. Those wishing to examine general trends in diving capacities, such as Schreer and Kovacs (1997) or more recently, Halsey *et al.* (2006), have only to consult this site before presenting and analyzing data that can be traced to its original source at any time by simply citing the weblink. Using this approach, the aforementioned work, for example, would ultimately save about three pages, or 72% of reference text (Schreer and Kovacs 1997).

The only stipulation must be that such sites be accessible forever. Similar sites could deal with a multitude of issues, ranging from species masses to the times of bird migrations and would offer a service that could be updated by approved scientists, providing a way out of the publication reference quandary.

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Schreer JF and Kovacs KM. 1997. Allometry of diving capacity in air-breathing vertebrates. *Can J Zool* **75**: 339–58.
Halsey LG, Butler PJ, and Blackburn TM. 2006. A phylogenetic analysis of the allometry of diving. *Am Nat 167*: 276–87.

War of the roses: the author replies

McMahon (*Front Ecol Environ* **4(5)**: 237) and I both acknowledge human responsibility for invasive species, but he further argues that militarization is sometimes appropriate towards them (also see Clergeau and Nuñez 2006). My original article (*Front Ecol Environ* **3(9)**: 495–500) did not intend to deny that eradication and perhaps even militarism can be useful in the management of *some* invasive species. I primarily sought to redress our knee-jerk militaristic response to them, encouraging the search for alternatives that nonetheless "promot[e] conservation action". Hence, I heartily agree with his wish that "both philosophies should be integrated".

Nonetheless, McMahon provides only a weak example of his proposed "holistic view". Marion Island is largely uninhabited, except for a scientific research station (http://marion.sanap.org.za/index2.html), so his "success story" about the eradication of feral cats skirts social dimensions. A holistic example would incorporate these dimensions along with measures of success in terms of biodiversity. Simberloff (2006) also discounts these dimensions in his focus on how the metaphor of an invasional meltdown – which he associates with militarism – has encouraged scientific investigation. As emphasized in my paper, however, a militaristic approach will be most problematic when it occurs within a complex social setting. I provided the case of Portola, CA, where protesters against a fish eradication project carried a banner that read "Stop Fish & Game [Department] from poisoning Lake Davis – Save our children". While McMahon demonstrates that militaristic planning can work in a rarefied setting, it will be more challenging to include it within holistic management that incorporates multiple stakeholders.

Both McMahon and the earlier letter by Liebhold (*Front Ecol Environ* **4(2)**: 66) argue that eradication sometimes works, but neither of them consider its future. A successful eradication is not necessarily forever, and measures to prevent future reintroductions appear moderate at best. It remains to be seen whether society will pay for the inevitable re-eradications. It took nearly 15 years to eradicate the cats from Marion Island.

Finally, a critical question is whether successful eradication – such as the one McMahon describes – really depends on a "militaristic approach". We can undertake a "staged process" to quickly eliminate an invasive species without being militaristic. Perhaps a hallmark of this approach would be an appreciation for the success of these organisms that we have spread – a more realistic and humane view of them rather than managerial enmity.

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Clergeau P and Nuñez MA. 2006. The language of fighting invasive species. *Science* **311**: 951.
Simberloff D. 2006. Invasional meltdown six years later – important phenomenon, unfortunate metaphor, or both? *Ecol Lett* **9**: 912–19.

Erratum

Editorial. *Front Ecol Environ* **4(6)**: 283. Fourth paragraph, 2nd sentence should read: "Apparently 80%of the journals in the Thomson Scientific database have a self citation rate ranging from zero to 20%".

Robertson MM. *Front Ecol Environ* 2006; **4(6)**: 297–302. Page 299, 2nd paragraph, first line should read, "Phase 1 credits represented 49.7% of all credits for sale during the study period, while fully functional (Phase 4) credits comprised 6.1%..." This does not change the analysis or overall conclusions.

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