

**Dear reader,**

At our own risk, we have prepared a special issue of our journal, which includes only a single work, a monographic summary of faunistic records. At present, journals have to comply with requirements for their papers to be indexed in various databases, to increase citations, impact factor and meet other scientometric criteria. In full realization of this we have, however, decided to take an unconventional approach. Firstly, we are concerned about the almost complete disappearance of the genre of the scientific monograph. It is understandable that most researchers set themselves the task of preparing as many journal articles as possible. However, in our opinion, a monograph based on long-term data, which are comprehensively analyzed and answer a number of fundamental questions, is much more valuable than an array of articles published in various journals. Secondly, the work presented by the authors summarizes information on the amphibians and reptiles of an urban environment – the city of

Sevastopol. Researchers set themselves very interesting tasks, for example, zoning of the region based on herpetological data, and assessing the status of the populations of all recorded and identified taxa, with special attention to rare and endangered species.

We hope that, in response to this decision, our journal, which is a platform for monographic summaries, will not only retain its readers and authors, but will acquire new ones, including authors who are ready to prepare this kind of research papers.

We would appreciate feedback on the need for such publications.

*Alexander V. Krylov,
Chief Editor of the journal "Ecosystem Transformation"*