Welcome to the second edition of the revived *Lathyrus Lathyrism Newsletter*. Thank you to all the authors who have contributed their work. This volume will be in two parts, this edition is the first [Vol. 2(1)], the second part [Vol. 2(2)] will follow in September/October 2001. If you wish to contribute an article for the coming edition it will be still possible to include some that arrive by 15 September 2001. I will however be away from 23 July until 14 September. Please also note that my Email address will be changing shortly, although I hope to continue with both old and new addresses for some time. I do not know the new Email address at this time.

One of the aims of the newsletter has been to increase cooperation across disciplines and distance and this seems to be occurring already. I for one have a greater understanding of what has been recently achieved in areas other than my own. Authors working in all disciplines are encouraged to submit work relevant to *Lathyrus* and lathyrism.

Please see the section “Items of Interest” (page 53) on the *Lathyrus* Email group. If you have Email access this will provide you with ready communication to so far 40 other researchers worldwide, all interested people are welcome to join.

Thanks is due to the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA) and the Third World Medical Research Foundation (TWMRF) for supporting the newsletter.

Any comments on improving the newsletter in the future or any other suggestions are very welcome, contributions from readers are imperative to maintaining the direction and momentum of the newsletter. Most research submissions should be approximately 1500 words and can include a small number of tables or figures, photographs of the author and of research are encouraged as they are easily included in the on-line version. Introduction/Methods/Results and Discussion are the preferred layout for research summaries, although this can be altered as necessary. Abstracts are also welcome, if they have been published elsewhere then full acknowledgment will be made. Electronic copies are preferred but not essential.

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