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to the taxonomy, biogeography
and evolution of all plant groups

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Editorial

Overview

This year, *Australian Systematic Botany (ASB)* celebrates 15 years of publication. There are many people who have contributed to its success during this time. I thank present and past Editorial Advisory Committee members, my predecessors, authors, referees and subscribers for its past success, and will work to ensure its future.

This year, the journal has moved to a new 2-column, *cropped-A4* format. We retain the same high page count as previous years, which means that more quality science can be published per volume. As well it is a more-flexible format, and will ensure acceptance to publication times remain competitive. *ASB* continues the policy of NO page charges.

Two special issues are now in production (for Vols 15 & 16), one focusing on *Short-range Endemism* and the other on *Biology of Acacia* [continuing the *Advances in Legume Systematics* Series].

Impact Factor and Ranking

Australian Systematic Botany had an impact factor of **0.78** and **0.82** and was ranked **71/137** and **64/136** (Plant Sciences Category) respectively in the 2000 and 1999 SCI Journal Citation Reports. This represents a consolidation of *ASB*'s readership and improved accessibility via the internet (Contents pages and Abstracts may be viewed free of charge). The publication of the *L. A. S. Johnson Review Series* will broaden the Journal's readership and continues to consolidate *ASB* as a leading plant systematics journal.

World Wide Web & Electronic Edition of Journal

Information about the *Australian Systematic Botany* [print and electronic versions (pdf and XML)] is accessible through the *ASB* home page:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/asb>

Subscription packages that include the full web edition of *ASB* (with search engine) are available to subscribers. Readers and browsers can find out about recently accepted papers by subscribing to a free early alert service:

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/early.cfm>

With this service readers are notified by email when a new issue of *ASB* is published.

Accessing Individual Electronic Papers Online

You can now purchase individual papers online, if you don't have a subscription to the journal. Browsers can access the tables of contents of any journal, find a paper of interest, and read its online abstract. If you decide to purchase the paper (from AU\$15), you should choose 'add to basket'

from the table of contents, and follow the simple instructions to download the paper to your desktop.

Submission Rate

There were 49 manuscripts submitted in 2001, more than the number of papers submitted in 2000 (41 manuscripts). About 35% of submissions in 2001 were from overseas contributors.

Published Papers and Acceptance Rate

The journal published 6 issues of 36 papers (974 pages) in 2001. The acceptance rate was about 90% in 2001, reflecting the high quality of submissions.

In 2001, *ASB* published one Special Issue on *The Biogeography and Biodiversity of Australasian Fungi* (Vol. 49, no. 3).

Acceptance to Publication Times

The time from acceptance to print publication for a paper in *ASB* is presently just under 6 months.

Source of Reviewers

The quality of the published papers depends on the quality of the refereeing system. In 2001 the journal editor consulted 74 referees (48% overseas) from 13 countries. This breadth not only allows for a wide range of opinions, but also serves to bring the journal to the attention of an increasing number of scientists, some of whom may submit their work for publication.

Australian Systematic Botany Student Prize

The *ASB* Student Prize for the best student-authored paper published in 2002 will be announced in the first issue of 2003. The award is a \$250 book voucher (selections from CSIRO Publishing Booklist) and a year's subscription to the journal.

Electronic Mail

For faster communication, electronic mail is encouraged, email: simone.farrer@csiro.au.

Simone Farrer (Managing Editor)
January 2002