

Functional Plant Biology: new initiatives in 2011

New online editorial management system

We are pleased to announce that from mid-April 2011 *Functional Plant Biology* will change its manuscript submission and peer review editorial system to ScholarOne Manuscripts. ScholarOne Manuscripts from Thomson Reuters is one of the most widely used online manuscript editorial systems (~13 million registered users) and will be familiar to most authors and reviewers. This replaces the old OSPREY system, which had benefits when it was first introduced, but has now become outdated.

The ScholarOne manuscript submission and tracking system includes a plagiarism-detecting feature called CrossCheck. CrossCheck uses iThenticate, a web-based content verification tool, to compare a given manuscript against a vast database of scholarly publications (which have been submitted for inclusion by publishers). **CSIRO PUBLISHING** plans to use CrossCheck as part of ScholarOne when the journals are moved to the system in 2011. This will enable editors to check whether material in new manuscripts has already been published in an electronic form.

The new manuscript handling system will expedite correspondence, particularly between Editors and reviewers. With so much emphasis on one's own publication output, ScholarOne will be a welcome improvement for reviewers and authors wanting to publish in *Functional Plant Biology*.

Research Fronts and Special Issues

Selected papers from the proceedings of the 16th International Meeting on *Frankia and Actinorhizal Plants* held in Portugal, September 2010, will be published as a special issue in July this year.

Selected papers from the following international meetings will be published later in the year:

- Workshop on 'Improving Stress Tolerance of Bean Plants to Abiotic Stresses' at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Cali, Columbia, November 2010. This international workshop focussed on the application of genomic approaches using model legumes into useful information for crop improvement.
- Symposium on 'The evolution of photosynthesis and oxygenation of the Earth', Sydney, June 2011 (<http://www.absociety.org/symposium>).
- International Botanical Congress, Melbourne, July 2011 (<http://www.abc2011.com>). Symposia cover ecophysiology, genomics, biochemistry and cell biology.
- Rhizosphere 3, Perth, September 2011 (<http://rhizosphere3.com>). This meeting includes papers on plant nutrition, ecosystem diversity, bioremediation, water quality and rehabilitation of degraded land.

PrometheusWiki

PrometheusWiki (<http://prometheuswiki.publish.csiro.au>) contains protocols complementary to papers published in *Functional Plant Biology* and other journals that include studies on whole plants and communities. PrometheusWiki is a web-based, free-content resource project, and is designed for researchers in the fields of ecological and environmental plant physiology to easily access and share protocols and to provide a forum for discussion and debate on different practices.

It contains so far over 100 protocols as well as expert summaries in the major areas of quantitative plant measurements. If you

- have a laboratory protocol used successfully by postgraduate students or colleagues
- are publishing a new method
- have compared new or old instruments for accuracy and reliability
- want to share different protocols with other laboratories

then PrometheusWiki is an excellent venue for open communication.

For example, the protocol on cryo-scanning electron microscopy (cryo-SEM) published as an Accessory Publication to the recent article by McCully *et al.* (2010) on cryo-SEM and X-ray microanalysis applications has been reproduced in PrometheusWiki, with some additional methods applicable for anatomical studies. This new form of publication has given the recent review, along with the earlier related review on cryo-SEM. (McCully *et al.* 2009) much greater exposure than in a traditional publication. When the words 'Cryo SEM protocols' are entered into a Google search, the protocol in PrometheusWiki is listed at the top!

New submissions made to PrometheusWiki in the next 3 months will be provided with editorial assistance. After July, the online editing feature will eliminate the need for this. People interested in this new form of publication should contact one of the editorial team in the appropriate area of expertise regarding the submission of a protocol.

References

- McCully ME, Canny MJ, Huang CX (2009) Cryo-scanning electron microscopy (CSEM) in the advancement of functional plant biology: morphological and anatomical applications. *Functional Plant Biology* 36(2), 97–124. doi:10.1071/FP08304
- McCully ME, Canny MJ, Huang CX, Miller C, Brink F (2010) Cryo-scanning electron microscopy (CSEM) in the advancement of functional plant biology: energy dispersive X-ray microanalysis (CEDX) applications. *Functional Plant Biology* 37(11), 1011–1040. doi:10.1071/FP10095