

Editorial

Overview

This year, *Australian Journal of Botany* (*AJB*) reaches 53 years of publication. There are many people who have contributed to its success during this time. I thank my production team here at CSIRO PUBLISHING, 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 we will be expanding the journal to 8 issues to accommodate the increase in high-quality submissions. We also will soon be introducing a new online submission/refereeing system (OSPREDY), which will enable the authors to track their manuscript from submission to acceptance.

Impact Factor and Ranking

The *Australian Journal of Botany* has maintained its impact factor of **0.94** (Plant Sciences Category) 65 of 137 ranked journals (Source: ISI 2003 Journal Citation Reports). This represents consolidation in *AJB*'s readership and improved accessibility via the internet (e.g. Contents pages and Abstracts may be viewed free of charge) and the large international referee base.

World Wide Web & Electronic Edition of Journal

Information about the *Australian Journal of Botany* [print and electronic versions (.pdf and XML)] is accessible through the *AJB* home page:

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

Subscription packages that include the full web edition of *AJB* (with both full-text XML and PDF options) 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 *AJB* is about to be published, usually about 3 weeks in advance of the print publication.

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Submission Rate

The number of submissions to the journal continues to rise: 221 manuscripts were submitted in 2004, considerably more than the number of papers submitted in 2003 (187 manuscripts). About 57% of submissions in 2004 were from overseas contributors.

Published Papers for 2004 and Acceptance Rate

The journal published 76 papers (790 pages) in 2004. The category *Ecology and Ecophysiology* remained strong (35% of papers published), although there was good representation from all other categories.

The continued publication of the *Turner Review Series* (<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/66/aid/2171.htm>) has broadened the Journal's readership and continues to consolidate *AJB* as a leading botanical journal.

The acceptance rate was about 55% in 2004.

Our policy to distribute FREE full-text PDFs to corresponding authors of published papers has been warmly received.

Acceptance to Publication Times

The time from acceptance to print publication for a paper in *AJB* is presently about 4–5 months, and is even shorter (at least 3 weeks earlier) for online publication, as papers appear online as they are approved for printing.

Source of Reviewers

The quality of the published papers depends on the quality of the refereeing system. In 2004 the journal editor consulted 331 referees (55% overseas) from over 35 countries. This breadth not only allows for a wide range of opinions, but also has served to bring the journal to the attention of an increasing number of scientists, some of whom may submit their work for publication. The list of referees consulted in 2004 follows this report, and I thank all these people for their time and effort dedicated to this task.

Australian Journal of Botany — 2004 Student Prize

The *AJB* Student Prize for the best student-authored paper published in 2004 will be announced in the next issue. 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 2005