

Editorial

New series: the evolution of plant function

The evolution of plant function: a virtual Special Issue for FPB

In 2009, we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, and the 150th anniversary of his publication *The Origin of Species*. To commemorate, starting mid-2009, FPB will publish monthly reviews on a wide range of topics on plant function with an evolutionary theme.

As the reviews are published, they will be collated into a virtual Special Issue, with a link on the FPB home page. These papers will contain suitable background information as a valuable resource for university students and early-career scientists, as well as recent advances and cutting edge research in the area. At the end of the series, they may be collated as a printed Special Issue.

Topics range widely and include the evolution of plant vacuoles, halophytes, C₄ photosynthesis, mycorrhizas, plant viruses, apomixis, fertility in wheat, photosynthesis in algae, carbon isotope discrimination and water use efficiency, aluminium tolerance in grasses, phosphorus uptake mechanisms, symbiotic nitrogen fixation in legumes, flooding tolerance in higher plants, freezing tolerance in angiosperms, xylem vessel structure and function, flowering, and grain size in cereals. Further contributions on this evolutionary theme are welcome, and can be discussed with me (rana.munns@csiro.au).

New Associate Editor

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Clearwater from HortResearch, New Zealand, as an Associate Editor. Mike will represent the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists, for which he is President-Elect. Mike's expertise in

water relations, carbon supply and fruit development will be a valuable contribution to the journal.

Best Paper Award for young scientists

Functional Plant Biology and the Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS) are pleased announce the award of the Best Paper for 2007 from a young scientist to Abby Cuttriss. Abby will present her paper at ComBio2008 in Canberra in September.

- Cuttriss AJ, Chubb AC, Alawady A, Grimm B, Pogson BJ (2007) Regulation of lutein biosynthesis and prolamellar body formation in *Arabidopsis*. *Functional Plant Biology* **34**, 663–672.

A total of 12 nominations were received, and decisions were made by assessing the reviewers' reports on each paper by the ASPS executive council. All nominations were judged of high quality. Two were highly commended as particularly novel and made important contribution to our understanding of plant biology:

- Wang YH, Gehring C, Chaill D, Irving H (2007) Plant natriuretic peptide active site determination and effects on cGMP and cell volume regulation. *Functional Plant Biology* **34**, 645–673.
- Jackson M, Rae A, Casu R, Grof C, Bonnet G, Maclean D (2007) A bioinformatic approach to the identification of a conserved domain in a sugarcane legumain that directs GFP to the lytic vacuole. *Functional Plant Biology* **34**, 633–644.

I look forward to assessing the high-quality papers from early-career scientists for 2008.

Rana Munns
Editor-in-Chief

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