

Editorial

Overview

This year, *Australian Systematic Botany (ASB)* celebrates 16 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, we will ensure acceptance to publication times remain competitive. *ASB* continues the policy of NO page charges.

This year's special issue *Biology of Acacia* (Vol. 16, no. 1) has just been published and continuing the *Advances in Legume Systematics* Series.

Impact Factor and Ranking

Australian Systematic Botany's rise in Impact Factor continues, with an impact factor of **1.24** and citation ranking of **45** of 134 (Source: Plant Sciences Category, 2001 Journal Citation Reports). This marked improvement represents a consolidation of *ASB's* readership and improved accessibility via the internet (Contents pages and Abstracts may be viewed free of charge). The pending 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\$18), 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 37 manuscripts submitted in 2002. About 38% of submissions in 2002 were from overseas contributors.

Published Papers and Acceptance Rate

The journal published 6 issues of 39 papers (940 pages) in 2002. The acceptance rate was about 88% in 2002, reflecting the high quality of submissions.

In 2002, *ASB* published one Special Issue on *Short-range Endemism* (Vol. 15, no. 4) and one single-paper issue on *Zieria* (Rutaceae) (Vol. 15, no. 3).

Acceptance to Publication Times

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

Source of Reviewers

The quality of the published papers depends on the quality of the refereeing system. In 2002, I consulted 85 referees (54% 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 was announced in the first issue of 2003. The award continues in 2003, and 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.

Ending Comments

There is much change in the world of electronic publishing with regard to enhanced electronic delivery and plant systematics journals are not immune from these changes. As part of the CSIRO PUBLISHING stable of journals, *ASB* is well placed to meet these challenges.

Simone Farrer (Managing Editor)
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