
The Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Office of the American Journal of Botany are grateful to our dedicated Associate Editors, Special Guest Editors, reviewers, and authors for their thoughtful and diligent work over the past year.

The Journal Citation Report, which issues the journal Impact Factors, is scheduled to be released on July 29 (http://thomsonreuters.com/press-releases/062014/Thomson-Reuters-Research-Analytics-Enhancements?cid=social_20140610_25723586), so we are unable to pass on the most recent numbers at the moment.

We took further steps in 2013 to attempt to increase the Impact Factor for AJB and improve other metrics: (1) We spun off the “Primer Notes & Protocols” section of the AJB, which ran from 2010 to 2012, into the new BSA journal Applications in Plant Sciences, and (2) we focused on more special papers, issues, and sections in 2013 and 2014 (see below).

1. "alt-metrics" [Information provided by Sean Graham.] Google Scholar has just released the 2014 'Scholar Metrics' to 'quickly gauge the visibility and influence of recent articles in scholarly publications' (see http://googlescholar.blogspot.ca/2014/06/2014-scholar-metrics-released.html). The site ranks journals by the h5-index ('... the largest h such that h articles published in 2009-2013 have at least h citations each...') for articles in the last 5 years. The AJB number is 43—ranking 18 out of the top 20 in 'Botany' (chosen from the subcategories list under 'Life Science & Earth Science' or see here—http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&vq=bio_botany). This is a different way of measuring impact than I.F., and the two metrics are reporting on different aspects of impact. The h5 index focuses on the top performing papers, and so is not directly affected by articles with few citations. Thus, I.F. (which considers everything) tells you more about the 'average' impact of AJB articles, and 'h5' more about how the set of top performing AJB papers is doing. For comparison, AJB ranks 47th by I.F. in 'Plant Sciences' on Web of Science.

It is possible to see the papers that make up the AJB score by clicking on the number. For AJB they are here: http://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&vq=bio_botany&view_op=list_hcore&venue=iRLX2uruVoA1.2014

Note that Google Scholar numbers for a given article tend to be quite a bit higher than on Web of Science because Google Scholar includes citations in books and other categories (that WOS filters out).

This last link shows the top 43 cited articles for 2009-2013. Of these, 19 are from regular issues, and 24 are from Special Issues (12 from the Darwin issue in 2009, 8 from the Biodiversity issue in 2011, and 4 from the Next-Gen Sequencing issue in 2012). This shows how important Special
Issues are. Another interesting observation: the titles of 14 of these 43 articles contain the term “angiosperm.”

2. *AJB* typically tries to publish one special issue, and several special articles, each year. In 2013, we published:

- A Special Issue on “Advances in Plant Tropisms” (editors: John Kiss and Sarah Wyatt) *AJB* 100(1)
- A Special Section on “Ecological Interactions and the Evolution of Plant Mating Systems” (editors: Rupesh R. Kariyat, Jordan P. Sinclair, and Edward M. Golenberg) *AJB* 100(6)
- A Special Issue on “Global Biological Change” (editors: Stephen G. Weller, Katharine Suding, and Ann K. Sakai) 100(7)
- A Special Section on “Rhizosphere Interactions: The Root Microbiome” (editors: Darlene Southworth and Marnie E. Rout) *AJB* 100(9)

For 2014, we turned our attention to celebrating the journal’s first 100 years by publishing *AJB* Centennial Reviews each month of the year. These Open Access articles look back at key research published in the Journal over the past 100 years and bring those topics up to date. The following have been published this year, with more to come:

- “The evolutionary-developmental origins of multicellularity” by Karl J. Niklas *AJB* 101(1)
- “The nature of serpentine endemism” by Brian L. Anacker *AJB* 101(2)
- “Repeated evolution of tricellular (and bicellular) pollen” by Joseph H. Williams, Mackenzie L. Taylor, and Brian C. O'Meara *AJB* 101(4)
- “Is gene flow the most important evolutionary force in plants?” by Norman C. Ellstrand *AJB* 101(5)
- “Plant evolution at the interface of paleontology and developmental biology: An organism-centered paradigm” by Gar W. Rothwell, Sarah E. Wyatt, and Alexandru M. F. Tomescu *AJB* 101(6)
- “The polyploidy revolution then...and now: Stebbins revisited” by Douglas E. Soltis, Clayton J. Visger, and Pamela S. Soltis *AJB* 101(7) [in press]

*Other Centennial Articles in Revision or Review:*

"The Plastochron Index: Still useful after nearly six decades," by Roger D. Meicenheimer

"A century of auxin research,” by Lucia Strader and Tara A. Enders

“The role of homoploid hybridization in evolution: A century of studies synthesizing genetics & ecology,” by Sarah B. Yamikowski and Loren H. Rieseberg

“Phloem Development: Current Knowledge and Future Perspectives,” by Jung-ok Heo, Pawel Roszak, Kaori M. Furuta, and Ykä Helariutta

“The relative and absolute frequencies of angiosperm sexual systems, focusing on dioecy, monoecy, and gynodioecy,” by Susanne Renner

“Ever since Klekowski: Testing a set of radical hypotheses revives the genetics of ferns and lycophytes,” by Christopher H. Haufler

We also have a Special Issue slated for October 2014 titled “Speaking of Food: Connecting Basic and Applied Science.” This issue, headed by Special Issue Editors Briana Gross, Toby Kellogg, and Allison
Miller, comes on the heels of the symposium and colloquium on the same topic that took place at Botany 2013. The goal of those events and of this special *AJB* issue is to highlight basic research happening in crop species and their wild or weedy relatives, including agricultural ecology, biochemistry, ethnobotany, evolution and genome structure, gene flow, pollination biology, stress responses (both biotic and abiotic), and to demonstrate how this work is relevant to applied agricultural research, crop improvement, conservation of crop genetic resources, and sustainable agriculture. Several of these articles will already be online by the end of July 2014.

We anticipate that these topics and articles will increase interest in and citations for the journal and thus contribute to a higher Impact Factor, and we also hope that they draw attention to the excellent individual articles themselves.

3. AJB Centennial

In addition to the *AJB* Centennial Reviews listed above, we have been promoting the Centennial in other ways:

- Each Review article is Open Access upon publication and receives its own press release, which is then posted on EurekAlert. This exposes the research to thousands of readers that may not normally read the *AJB*.
- The *Plant Science Bulletin*, throughout 2014, features short interviews with some of *AJB*’s most prolific contributors. These interviews highlight the work these authors have published in the *AJB*, how their research has changed over their careers, and why they have consistently selected the *AJB* as one of their primary journals. Currently, the following authors have been featured, with more to come later this year: Karl Niklas, Pam and Doug Soltis, Mark Chase, Shirley Tucker, Gar Rothwell, Daniel Crawford, and Paul Mahlberg.
- We have freed up the content of our top 25 contributors’ entire *AJB* work at [www.botany.org/AJB100](http://www.botany.org/AJB100).
- We continue to promote the *AJB*’s centennial (and the entire journal) via Facebook and Twitter. These two sites have nearly 10,000 followers, which far exceeds our BSA membership.
- The BSA created a short video to mark the centennial, which will be available online and shown in the BSA booth at Botany 2014.
- Giveaways at the meeting include a limited number of Centennial T-shirts (as part of a social marketing strategy), birthday cake at the Botany 2014 opening reception, and a desk calendar featuring *AJB* covers.

4. Upcoming Special Issues/Papers/Commentaries

- Imaging and Visualization in the Plant Sciences special issue; Special Issue Editors: Scott Russell and ?

5. Subscriptions

- The current renewal rate for *AJB* is around 94% of our 2013 year-end total. Overall, subscriptions are 82% online-only and 18% in print and online (for members and institutions). For institutional subscribers only, 51% are online-only and 49% are in print; for individual members, 93% are online-only and 7% are in print. [Subscriptions in print include online access.] Our print numbers continue to decrease: this year we are printing 790 copies (as compared with 892 in July 2013).
The board approved an institutional subscription price increase for 2015. These amounts are as follows:

- U.S. / Canada & Mexico / All Other Nations online only: $775 (4% increase)
- U.S. online and print: $825 (5.1% increase)
- Canada & Mexico online and print: $860 (4.9% increase)
- All Other Nations online and print: $920 (5.7% increase)

The price increases reflect our focus on de-emphasizing print editions and moving to an online-only format in the near future. Current print numbers indicate that we still have a demand for print, although it is declining rapidly. For the July 2014 issue, we printed 418 copies for U.S. institutions, 114 for non-U.S. institutions, 121 for U.S. BSA members, and 81 for non-U.S. BSA members. This reflects an overall drop of 102 print copies from the July 2013 issue.

We are in the sixth year of the consortium arrangement with Charlesworth to maintain subscriptions in China, and we are beginning negotiations for another 3-year renewal to begin in 2015. We are in the first year of a 3-year contract with Globe Publications to increase subscription sales in India. With the help of this in-country partner, we are marketing directly to librarians and plant scientists through monthly emails and personal visits. As a result, our subscriptions in India have increased from 15 to 22 and we are budgeting for 30 subscriptions in India for 2015. We are also looking into opportunities to increase subscriptions in Latin America.

The current AJB editorial staff includes Ms. Amy McPherson (Director of Publications and Managing Editor for AJB), Mr. Richard Hund (Production Editor), Dr. Sophia Balcomb (Assistant Editor/Content Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Manuscript Editor), Mr. Richard Earles (Copy Editor), Dr. Larry Skog (Copy Editor), Ms. Elaine Firestone (Copy Editor), and Ms. Mary Des Chene (Copy Editor). Dr. Balcomb and Ms. Amanda Marie Gurung have supported our outreach by writing press releases for EurekAlert.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail us at ajb@botany.org.

All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-5112; fax 314-577-9515; email to: ajb@botany.org; www.amjbot.org).

6. Journal Metrics

Total number of manuscripts submitted to AJB [Total numbers of Primer Notes mss. From 2011 and 2012 are in brackets]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section/Category</th>
<th>2014 (as of July 15)</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<td>Anatomy and Morphology</td>
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<td>Cell Biology</td>
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<td>328*</td>
<td>485</td>
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<td>628 [186]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- †Note: We discontinued the following categories in 2013—Bryology & Lichenology, Mycology, and Pteridology.
- *As of 16 July 2013, we had received 271 ms. submissions.
- AJB has published 108 articles so far in 2014 (through July), which compares with 127 through July 2013. (The Special Issues at the beginning of 2013 account for the difference.)

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jerststedt, Amy McPherson, and Richard Hund
Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and Production Editor

17 July 2014