

**BOTANY 2019, *AJB* Reports for Associate Editors  
Background Information for the Annual Meeting in  
Tucson, Arizona, Starr Pass Resort,  
Executive Boardroom 2  
Monday, 29 July 2019  
Confidential for the Editorial Board**

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Last year, we were in the midst of our transition from self-publishing the *American Journal of Botany* and *Applications in Plant Sciences* to partnering with the commercial publisher Wiley & Sons. We are pleased to report that we have made a lot of progress over the past year, and our partnership continues to evolve.

- **Partnership with Wiley, significant achievements over the past year**
  - **Strategy Day for *AJB* and *APPS*, January 2019, Chicago:** goal of raising the profiles of the journals while supporting our mission and our members. Attendees included 4 representatives from Wiley and 13 from BSA (editors and publication-affiliated members).
    - **Key Takeaways and focus for the next 1-2 years: Impact Factors** need to increase to help attract new MSS and to raise stature of the journals; our **International Reach** needs to expand, through discoverability and outreach; and we need to **Adapt to Changing Markets**, which are moving toward more *open*.
      - *IF*: Review articles help garner citations—so we are launching *AJB* Reviews in 2019, with first papers to publish in 2020. Effort led by Jannice Friedman, with help from Bill Hoffmann, Paul Kenrick, Cate Macinnis-Ng, Emily Sessa, and Nina Sletvold. [See [author guidelines](#) for more information.] In addition, we continue to try to attract papers through excellent service to our authors.
      - *International Reach*: Author campaigns and Virtual Issues; Search Engine Optimization, improvements to the website to make articles easy to access and the site more navigable; continued social media outreach; recruitment of AEs from outside of North America; author workshop in Ecuador (2018) and Mexico (October 2019).
      - *Adapting to Changing Markets*: working with Wiley's team by

reaching out to Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

- Many other ideas came out of this day—we're happy to discuss!
- **Hub for BSA Publications** (*AJB*, *APPS*, and *PSB*) launched late November: <https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>. The hub offers promotional possibilities for the journal, and other activities of the BSA, including Botany Conference, BSA Awards, and PlantingScience.
- **Outreach to Chinese Researchers:** Through Wiley, we can now translate abstracts into Simplified Chinese and promote content on WeChat (Chinese messaging/social media), Weibo (similar to Twitter), and the Wiley blog on ScienceNet. Several authors have participated in this new opportunity.
- **Marketing**—We have a marketing plan for 2019 that builds on the ideas from Strategy Day and other Wiley initiatives.
  - Targeting authors through email campaigns (those publishing in competitor journals, in areas we'd like to expand or are already publishing; publish with us again).
  - eTOC alerts sent to all BSA members, and regular Wiley alerts working the way they are supposed to (people can sign up from Wiley Online Library).
  - Inclusion in World Environment Day, Biodiversity Day, and conference outreach at Wiley booths (Evolution, ASPB, ESA, British Ecological Society), including "Virtual Issues."
  - Improved Search Engine Optimization. See <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/Prepare/writing-for-seo.html>.
- **Plant Ontology:** We are in the process of implementing taxonomies for improved searching/discoverability on both *AJB*'s and *APPS*'s journal sites. The primary taxonomy this is being based on is the Plant Ontology (<http://browser.planteome.org/amigo>), which is used by *New Phytologist*; here's a sample search filtered using the Plant Ontology: <https://nph.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/doSearch?AllField=organelle>.
- **Wiley Executive Seminar** in DC, attended by *AJB* Managing Editor, Amy McPherson and *APPS* Managing Editor, Beth Parada, discussing "**Society Publishing in an 'Open' World: What does success look like?**"; bringing together their Society partners to discuss how we can respond to the call from funders, researchers, librarians, and authors to be more open, for peer review to be more transparent, and for data to be more available. The challenge is not only to make information freely available, but also to *translate* it to serve a broader public audience. The questions are what does it mean to be open, and how do we measure success?

See also the reports from Wiley, prepared by Gillian Greenough, Executive Editor, Life and Physical Sciences, Research & Society Services (our main contact at Wiley). Note that one report covers 2018, the other covers 2019 to-date (through the end of May for most items): [https://cms.botany.org/publications\\_2019.html](https://cms.botany.org/publications_2019.html)

## **JCR, Impact Factor, and Journal Information**

The Journal Citation Report was released by Clarivate on June 20, 2019. The 2018 IF = the number of citations received by the journal in 2018 to articles published in 2016 and 2017/number of citable items published in 2016-2017.

The Impact Factor for *AJB* is **2.841**, up from 2.788 last year.

The Impact Factor for *APPS* is **1.232**, up from 1.187 last year.

See the Wiley Report for more detailed information about the JCR.

### *AJB*:

- In 2018, *AJB* handled 478 new submissions plus 402 revised manuscripts, and published 184 articles. The total number of pages published in 2018 was 2080. Submissions were received from 46 countries, with the highest number from the United States (172), China (75), Brazil (36), Spain (21), Japan (20), and Mexico (19).
- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of our Associate Editors are from countries other than the U.S., and 47% are women.
- The average time to first decision in 2018 was 35.2 days; 2017 was 34.8 days; and 2016 was 37.6 days. So far in 2019, this number is 27.3 days.
- Our overall acceptance rate for *AJB* was 41% in 2018 (36% in 2017, 39% in 2016, and 39% in 2015).
- Pam Diggle is in the 5th year of her 5-year term as Editor-in-Chief, although we are eagerly anticipating a second 5-year term!
- In 2018/early 2019 we welcomed new Associate Editors Craig Brodersen (Yale University), Daisy Dent (University of Stirling, UK), Cate Macinnis-Ng (University of Auckland, New Zealand), and Simon Poppinga (University of Freiburg, Germany). For the current editorial board, see <https://bit.ly/2JeFkic>.
- Retirements from the Board include Jen Lau and David Spooner. Thanks so much to both of you!

Special issues raise the visibility of the journal and demonstrate the breadth of our content, as well as help our Impact Factor, by attracting high-quality and potentially well-cited papers. We thank all of the Special Issue/Section editors and contributing authors for their hard work in making their Society journal as strong as possible.

### **Special Issues in 2018**

- **“Wood: Biology of a Living Tissue,”** special section led by Jochen Schenk, February 2018
- **“Using and Navigating the Plant Tree of Life,”** led by Doug Soltis, Pam Soltis, Michael Moore, Emily Sessa, and Stephen Smith, March 2018: Also rolled into our Joint Virtual Issue, see below.
- **“The Tree of Death: The Role of Fossils in Resolving the Overall Pattern of Plant Phylogeny,”** led by Gar Rothwell, Ignacio Escapa, and Mihai Tomescu, August 2018

### **2018: Joint Virtual Issue**

The first-ever publication of companion special issues in *AJB* and *Applications in Plant*

*Sciences (APPS)*, focusing on the Tree of Life. Both issues were published in early 2018 and are combined in a special “Virtual Issue.” See <https://bit.ly/2M3FxXn>.

#### **2020: Joint Cross-Publication Special issue—AJB, APPS, IJPS**

- **Plant-Environment Interactions: Integrating across levels and scales**—led by Gina Baucom, Sharon Kessler, Katy Heath (AJB); Sally Chambers (APPS); and Dan Chitwood and Selena Smith (IJPS).

#### **OTNOTs**

A feature that we started in 2015 and that continues to draw attention is the essay series “On the Nature of Things” (or OTNOT). These brief essays succinctly summarize a current issue by providing background and seminal references, and insight into the current state of thought, technology, or understanding. They discuss what might be on the horizon for this issue, question, or area of research. See the “Highly Cited AJB Papers in IF Window” appendix for OTNOTs that have attracted 7 or more citations.

#### **Open Access**

The trend, we are told, is for science to be more Open. In *AJB*, all articles are set as free to view one year after publication. In addition, as a marketing tool, Wiley frees up all the articles in the January issues of their journals. OTNOTs are immediately freely available.

Out of 184 articles published in 2018, 31 articles (17%) were set as free on publication and 40 (22%) were paid Open Access by authors. This compares with 174 articles in 2017, in which 26 articles (15%) were set as free and 25 (14%) were paid OA. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the papers from the **Tree of Life special issue** were author-paid OA.

So far through June 2019, we have published 81 articles: **3** of these were paid Open Access (4% of the total); 22 were freed up by us.

Current OA charges are \$750 for BSA members, or \$1500 for non-members. This is unchanged over the previous year.

#### **Outreach for Publications**

With nearly 30,000 Facebook fans (up from 25,150) and over 7000 Twitter followers (up from 5900), we work hard to promote our authors’ research beyond publication and beyond the immediate BSA audience. When possible, we work with authors’ institutional press offices and other outlets, including EurekaAlert, to promote articles through press releases or other outlets. We promote each article via Twitter, but we also encourage authors to use the tools at the article site to promote their research via social media or direct e-mail. This combination of broad-based marketing and personal contact helps to enhance BSA membership and *AJB* author engagement. See also Wiley’s marketing efforts in their report.

## Journal Metrics

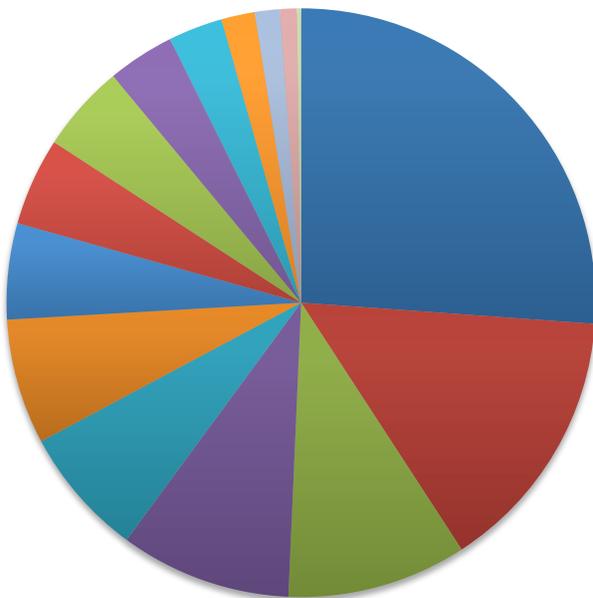
Year	No. of Subs.	Sub. to Ed. (days)	EIC to AE	Sub. to Rev. Inv.	Rev. resp. to inv.	Rev. complete after agreeing to review	Avg. time to 1st dec. (based on all dec. made in period)
2017	520	0.7	4.6	9	2.2	16.7	34.8
2018	478	0.8	5.6	10.3	2.3	17.1	35.2

1st Decision	RWR	RWR	Full Review	Full Review
	% of Decisions	Average days	% of Decisions	Average Days
2017	33.2	4.9	66.7	48.2
2018	34.6	5.5	65.4	49.9

Author Revision	Days for Rev 1	Days for Rev 2
2017	24.8	7.1
2018	25.3	8.9

We no longer publish Categories in the Table of Contents. Authors are given the opportunity to select a category during the submission process, however, and this does provide a snapshot of the types of papers we're receiving. The chart legend corresponds to the wedges in a clockwise manner.

# 2019



- Ecology
- Evolution & Phylogeny
- Anatomy and Morphology
- Reproductive Biology
- Genetics
- Physiology and Biochemistry
- Systematics & Phytogeography
- Population Biology
- Ecophysiology
- Paleobotany
- Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics
- Cell Biology
- Biomechanics
- Economic Botany
- Education

Section/Category	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Ecology	61	114	120	126	120
Evolution & Phylogeny	27	64	94	65	96
Reproductive Biology	26	41	44	57	63
Anatomy and Morphology	18	43	49	48	50
Ecophysiology	17	21	27	24	0
Genetics	16	31	28	23	31
Systematics & Phytogeography	13	23	52	24	40
Physiology and Biochemistry	9	30	20	13	26
Population Biology	8	21	21	21	47
Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics	7	13	7	9	17
Paleobotany	5	16	18	14	17
Biomechanics	2	6	6	9	8
Cell Biology	1	8	1	4	5
Economic Botany	1	4	4	2	7
Education	0	1	1	0	1
	211	436	492	439	528

+ 2019 through July 9.

The table above includes numbers, not percentages. These are submitted manuscripts, not published papers, and not all submissions list a category.

Average no. of days from an article entering production to date of publication (including composition, copy editing, proofing/corrections): 35 days for 2017. See the Wiley report for current production numbers.

No. of Submissions by Country, based on corresponding author	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
UNITED STATES	172	207	169	207	199
CHINA	75	66	48	52	87
BRAZIL	36	26	22	30	33
JAPAN	20	18	27	12	18
SPAIN	20	22	17	20	15
MEXICO	19	16	14	16	13
CANADA	18	15	15	23	24
INDIA	14	14	6	13	16
FRANCE	10	6	9	9	3
GERMANY	9	11	14	15	15
ARGENTINA	6	9	6	3	2
AUSTRALIA	5	5	4	12	14
CHILE	5	8	2	4	7
SOUTH AFRICA	5	1	2	3	2
COLOMBIA	4	0	1	5	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	4	1	2	6	3
IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)	4	3	3	4	5
POLAND	4	1	3	3	1
SWITZERLAND	4	0	3	7	4
TAIWAN	4	3	3	1	7
DENMARK	2	0	0	0	1
ITALY	2	4	1	3	3

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	2	3	0	5	7
NETHERLANDS	2	2	1	2	1
NORWAY	2	4	0	4	3
PAKISTAN	2	3	4	2	3
SINGAPORE	2	0	2	0	0
SWEDEN	2	5	6	1	9
UNITED KINGDOM	2	8	13	12	10
ALGERIA	1	0	1	1	3
BANGLADESH	1	0	1	1	0
COSTA RICA	1	1	2	1	5
ECUADOR	1	0	0	1	0
EGYPT	1	3	0	2	2
ETHIOPIA	1	4	0	0	1
FRENCH GUIANA	1	0	0	0	0
ISRAEL	1	1	2	1	1
KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF	1	1	0	0	0
MOROCCO	1	0	1	0	0
NEW ZEALAND	1	1	0	2	0
NIGERIA	1	3	1	2	2
PORTUGAL	1	1	2	4	3
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	1	2	2	0	5
SAUDI ARABIA	1	4	0	3	1
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	1	0	0	0	0
TUNISIA	1	2	0	0	1
TURKEY	1	1	1	2	4

Total number of pages published

January – July 2019	Total: 1045
2018	Total: 2080
2017	Total: 1929
2016	Total: 2178
2015	Total: 2132
2014	Total: 2188

The current *AJB* editorial staff and freelance editors include Ms. Amy McPherson (Director of Publications and Managing Editor for *AJB*) and Mr. Richard Hund (Project Manager for BSA and Production Editor for *AJB*); and Dr. Sophia Balcomb (Assistant Editor/Highlights Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Manuscript Editor), Mr. Richard Earles (Copy Editor), Dr. Larry Skog (Copy Editor), and Ms. Elaine Firestone (Copy Editor).

**Appendix 1. *AJB* Impact Factor and ranking among Plant Science Journals, 2006–2018.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Impact Factor</b>	<b>Rank</b>
2018	2.841	53/228
2017	2.788	49/222
2016	3.050	39/211
2015	2.811	43/209
2014	2.603	50/200
2013	2.463	52/196
2012	2.586	47/194
2011	2.664	47/190
2010	3.052	27/187
2009	2.684	29/172
2008	2.642	27/155
2007	2.512	26
2006	2.969	16

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Full Journal Title</b>	<b>Total Cites</b>	<b>Journal Impact Factor</b>	<b>Eigenfactor Score</b>
1	Annual Review of Plant Biology	19,024	18.918	0.016900
2	TRENDS IN PLANT SCIENCE	21,520	14.006	0.024080
3	Nature Plants	3,979	13.297	0.020100
4	Molecular Plant	9,274	10.812	0.027150
5	Annual Review of Phytopathology	7,936	10.200	0.007380
6	PLANT CELL	52,034	8.631	0.057800
7	CURRENT OPINION IN PLANT BIOLOGY	13,733	7.508	0.021650
8	NEW PHYTOLOGIST	52,069	7.299	0.082510
9	PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY JOURNAL	7,866	6.840	0.016180
10	PLANT PHYSIOLOGY	80,841	6.305	0.070510
11	PLANT JOURNAL	43,424	5.726	0.045000
12	JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY	19,532	5.687	0.023130
13	PLANT CELL AND ENVIRONMENT	22,073	5.624	0.022770
14	JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL BOTANY	44,813	5.360	0.055260
15	MOLECULAR PLANT PATHOLOGY	6,115	4.379	0.008120
16	JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS	25,908	4.257	0.021150
16	PHYTOCHEMISTRY REVIEWS	2,655	4.257	0.002790
18	CRITICAL REVIEWS IN PLANT SCIENCES	3,517	4.189	0.002410
19	PHYTOMEDICINE	9,672	4.180	0.008250
20	Frontiers in Plant Science	34,295	4.106	0.101490
21	Plant Genome	1,425	4.042	0.003320
22	Journal of Systematics and Evolution	1,425	4.040	0.003060
23	PLANT AND CELL PHYSIOLOGY	16,107	3.929	0.018210
24	PLANT MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	14,112	3.928	0.009620
25	THEORETICAL AND APPLIED GENETICS	20,017	3.926	0.013530
26	Journal of Integrative Plant Biology	4,282	3.824	0.006640
27	TAXON	5,305	3.823	0.005980

28	PLANT SCIENCE	14,435	3.785	0.013100
29	ENVIRONMENTAL AND EXPERIMENTAL BOTANY	10,065	3.712	0.009540
30	BMC PLANT BIOLOGY	11,485	3.670	0.021270
31	MOLECULAR PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS	11,283	3.649	0.008960
32	Horticulture Research	713	3.640	0.001990
33	PLANT DISEASE	15,625	3.583	0.011510
34	APPLIED VEGETATION SCIENCE	2,148	3.568	0.003090
35	PLANT CELL REPORTS	8,478	3.499	0.009350
36	ANNALS OF BOTANY	21,138	3.454	0.018370
37	JOURNAL OF ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY	35,034	3.414	0.025200
38	PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY	11,900	3.404	0.015390
39	GM Crops & Food-Biotechnology in Agriculture and the Food Chain	328	3.333	0.000830
40	PHYTOPATHOLOGY	15,793	3.264	0.010060
41	PLANT AND SOIL	33,620	3.259	0.023640
42	Crop Journal	804	3.179	0.002340
43	Plant Methods	2,605	3.170	0.004780
44	PRESLIA	1,099	3.071	0.001040
45	PLANTA	18,484	3.060	0.011580
46	BOTANICAL JOURNAL OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY	4,980	3.057	0.006280
46	PHOTOSYNTHESIS RESEARCH	6,800	3.057	0.006980
48	PHYSIOLOGIA PLANTARUM	14,044	3.000	0.006930
49	Plant Reproduction	310	2.976	0.001110
50	JOURNAL OF VEGETATION SCIENCE	8,102	2.944	0.007740
51	ANNALS OF THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN	2,806	2.933	0.001050
52	PHYTOCHEMISTRY	30,660	2.905	0.012020
53	AMERICAN JOURNAL OF BOTANY	17,277	2.841	0.013240

**Notes:**

*Plant Cell* increased slightly to 8.631, up from 8.228 (but yet to reach its high of 9.575 in 2013).

*New Phytologist* went down slightly to 7.299, from 7.433.

*Annals of Botany* decreased slightly to 3.454, down from 3.646. Its sister journal, *AoB Plants*, went to 2.270, from 2.821.

*International Journal of Plant Sciences* went to 1.425, steady from 1.450.