American Journal of Botany

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2024 AJB Associate Editors Meeting

1. Introductions and welcome new AEs (Open call for editors)
2. Farewell to retiring AEs
3. BSA/AJB and the transition to open access
4. Brief overview of ECAB and other comments from the Director-at-Large for Publications (Emily Sessa)
5. Overview of AJB article types: Reviews (Kasey Barton), Synthesis (Sean Graham), Highlights, OTNOTs, Special Collections
6. Discussion of IF - what is being cited?
7. Special Issues in the works
8. AI policy
9. Double anonymous review
10. New areas of exciting research to cover in the journal - we need your help!!!

Will you be at Botany 2024 in Grand Rapids?

Join us for a **thank you** drink
Sunday, before the plenary lecture,

Details to be provided soon!

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Open call for Associate Editors!

68 applications for AJB

20 countries!

13 new AEs

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64 Associate Editors

47% Female

47% non-US Institutions

Austria (2), Argentina (1), Canada (5) China (2), Colombia (1), Denmark (1), France (2), Germany (4), Israel (1), India (1), South Korea (1), Mexico (3), New Zealand (1), Netherlands (1), South Africa (1), Spain (2), Sweden (1), UK (1), US (32)

Wiley has negotiated an array of “deals” to cover APCs
Send authors here for info

Edited By: Pamela Diggle

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Latest issue

Volume 111, Issue 4
April 2024

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Thanks to Theresa Culley for chairing the ad hoc committee!

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- Cite use when appropriate (e.g. integral to methods)
- Use for editing/proof reading – no need to cite

Use of AI in generating reviews of submissions is NEVER allowed (violates confidentiality)

Emily Sessa
BSA Director at Large for Publications
New York Botanical Garden, USA
esessa@nybg.org

Early Career Advisory Board

AJITH ASHOKAN

is a Research Fellow at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, working on the evolution of ginger lilies, and is a tropical botanist fascinated by the diversity of woody climbers.

LIMING CAI

is a postdoc at the University of Texas at Austin who focuses on the phylogenomics and evolutionary genomics in flowering plants, especially parasitic plants.

MARIO BLANCO-SÁNCHEZ

is a PhD student at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Spain). He is an evolutionary ecologist interested in natural selection, quantitative genetics, phenotypic plasticity, and phylogeography of edaphic endemic plants from the Mediterranean region.

UROOJ FATIMA

is a postdoc at KAUST (KSA) whose research focuses on plant-pathogen interactions and studies the molecular basis of stress perception, signaling and adaptation in cereal crops in response to fungal pathogens.

ANA FLORES

is a Botany PhD student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa using a model system to study ontogenetic trajectories of plant functional traits and their potential for evolution by testing their plasticity and differential fitness consequences.

JORGE FLORES

is a Postdoc at the Finnish Museum of Natural History (Luomus) interested in both theoretical and empirical aspects of the phylogenetic inference and whose research is mainly focused on bryophyte phylogenetics, systematics and macroevolution.

CATALINA FLORES-GALVÁN

is a PhD student at the Instituto de Ecología, A. C (Mexico) studying plant ecology and ecophysiology focused on fern spore germination, gametophyte in situ establishment and its relations with biotic and abiotic factors.

SHELLY GAYNOR

is a PhD candidate at the University of Florida studying whole genome duplication (or polyploidy) evolution and population genetics.

HUASHENG HUANG

is a postdoc at the University of Florence working on the reconstruction of vegetation, climate and environment in the late Neogene and Quaternary Mediterranean.

LUIZ REZENDE

is a PhD student at the Ecological interactions and agroecosystems lab in the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil) researching pollination ecology in diversified interaction systems.

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RESEARCH ARTICLES

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Is self-incompatibility a reproductive barrier for hybridization in a sympatric species?

Linda M. Martínez-Ramos, Sonia Vázquez-Santana, José García-Franco, María C. Mandujano

e16309 | First Published: 07 April 2024

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Sex-specific scaling of leaf phosphorus vs. nitrogen under unequal reproductive requirements in *Eurya japonica*, a dioecious plant

Dong He, Xiang-Yu Liu, Li-Ting Zheng

e16311 | First Published: 03 April 2024

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Foliar spectra accurately distinguish most temperate tree species and show strong phylogenetic signal

Florence Blanchard, Anne Bruneau, Etienne Laliberté

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Heterotic growth of hybrids of *Arabidopsis thaliana* is enhanced by elevated atmospheric CO_2

Masako Mishio, Emi Sudo, Hiroshi Ozaki, Riichi Oguchi, Ryo Fujimoto, Nobuharu Fujii, Kouki Hikosaka

e16317 | First Published: 18 April 2024

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Reconstruction of an enigmatic Pennsylvanian cone reveals a relationship to Sphenophyllales

Michael P. D'Antonio, Carol L. Hotton, Selena Y. Smith, Peter R. Crane, Fabiany Herrera

e16321 | First Published: 24 April 2024

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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

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Traditional medicinal use is linked with apparency, not specialized metabolite profiles in the order Caryophyllales

Alex H. Crum, Lisa Philander, Lucas Busta, Ya Yang

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Kasey Barton
Reviews Editor
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
USA
reviews@botany.org

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What we're looking for:

- Synthetic reviews that move beyond summaries or updates of the literature
- Cross-disciplinary, synthesizing across approaches, biomes, taxa, etc.
- Robust approaches, including reports of synthesis methods used (e.g. clearly stating focus or question, reporting methods used to identify relevant literature to avoid bias, etc.)
- Clear and interesting to broad audience
- Quantitative (meta-analysis) or narrative (integrative)
- Instructions and published commentary by Emma Sayer on AJB website - Author Guidelines
- Questions: Kasey Barton (kbarton@hawaii.edu)

Spreading the word:

- Unsolicited submissions are welcome – spread the word in your communities
- By invitation – nominate topics or people by emailing: reviews@botany.org

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Title	Pub Year	Lead Author	Downloads 12 Months	Total Cites	2023 Cites
PARASITES ON PARASITES: HYPER-, EPI-, AND AUTOPARASITISM AMONG FLOWERING PLANTS	2021	TEIXEIRA-COSTA	1,910	21	9
MACROPHENOLOGY: INSIGHTS INTO THE BROAD-SCALE PATTERNS, DRIVERS, AND CONSEQUENCES OF PHENOLOGY	2021	GALLINAT	2,291	16	8
THE ROLE OF ONTOGENY IN WOOD DIVERSITY AND EVOLUTION	2021	ONYENEDUM	1,625	14	10
MICROBIAL EFFECTS ON PLANT PHENOLOGY AND FITNESS	2021	WAGNER	2,317	11	3
LOOKING BEYOND HISTORY: TRACING THE DISPERSAL OF THE MALAYSIAN COMPLEX OF CROPS TO AFRICA	2022	GRIMALDI	674	9	4
DIVERSITY IN CONDUIT AND PIT STRUCTURE AMONG EXTANT GYMNOSPERM TAXA	2021	JACOBSEN	669	8	6
BIODIVERSITY AT THE GLOBAL SCALE: THE SYNTHESIS CONTINUES	2021	FOLK	1,613	7	3
PHILOMATRY IN PLANTS: WHY DO SO MANY SPECIES HAVE LIMITED SEED DISPERSAL?	2022	CHEPLICK	1,590	6	3
VEGETATION-TYPE CONVERSION OF EVERGREEN CHAPARRAL SHRUBLANDS TO SAVANNAHS DOMINATED BY EXOTIC ANNUAL HERBS: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES FOR ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION	2021	PRATT	1,135	6	4
DISPERSAL EVOLUTION IN TEMPORALLY VARIABLE ENVIRONMENTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANT RANGE DYNAMICS	2021	OLDFATHER	1,429	5	4
DIVERSE ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS AND THE CONVERGENT EVOLUTION OF GRASS AWNS	2022	PETERSEN	1,121	4	3

https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1537-2197.Reviews

A Collection of AJB Reviews

Special Collections | First published: **6 January 2022** | Last updated: **30 April 2024**

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Sean Graham
University of British Columbia, Canada
swgraham@mail.ubc.ca

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Highlights

short summaries of a few articles from each issue

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Phylogenomic time tree of bryophytes uncovers hidden diversity and spikes of diversification in the last 150 million years

Mosses, liverworts, and hornworts are known collectively as bryophytes, a lineage of about 20,000 extant species. Bryophytes occur in virtually all regions of the globe and make significant contributions to ecosystem function through processes like carbon fixation and regulating water flow. The evolutionary history of bryophytes spans nearly 500 million years beginning with the earliest land plants, but the details of their history were uncertain. In this study, Bechteler et al. provide the most comprehensive phylogenomic analysis of bryophytes to date. The GoFlag consortium analyzed an extensive, novel set of genetic markers in a wide range of species, revealing new hypotheses for the relationships among the major lineages. Bryophytes steadily diversified over the last 400 million years, punctuated by bursts of rapid diversification in the last 150 million years. These results provide a new framework for studying the role of bryophytes in the face of global climate change, past and present.

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Essays that concisely summarize a new and exciting issue or research area, take a new look at an established area, or explore an idea or concept

1500 words (3.5 double-spaced manuscript pages) with up to 20 references and minimal figures and tables

Rapid review

”On the Nature of Things” (OTNOT) Essays

Title	Pub Year	Lead Author	Downloads First 12 Months	Total Cites	2023 Cites
PLANT EPIGENETICS: PHENOTYPIC AND FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY BEYOND THE DNA SEQUENCE	2021	BOQUETE	1,463	17	7
STOMATA: THE HOLEY GRAIL OF PLANT EVOLUTION	2021	MCADAM	2,315	16	5
1, 2, 3, GO! VENTURE BEYOND GENE ONTOLOGIES IN PLANT EVOLUTIONARY RESEARCH	2021	HOWARD	1,456	4	1
THE USE OF PLANT ONTOLOGIES IN COMPARATIVE AND EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE	2021	SOKOLOFF	665	3	1
AS ABOVE SO BELOW: RECENT AND FUTURE ADVANCES IN PLANT-MEDIATED ABOVE- AND BELOWGROUND INTERACTIONS	2022	RASMANN	662	3	1
PHENOTYPIC PLASTICITY MADE SIMPLE, BUT NOT TOO SIMPLE	2022	GOMULKIEWICZ	1,077	3	2
A MISSING LINK: CONNECTING PLANT AND POLLINATOR POPULATION STRUCTURE	2022	BURGIN	775	2	2
"AS IF THEY DISCOVERED IT BY THE SCENT": IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHEMICAL ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION, AND GENETICS OF FLORAL SCENT AND ITS ROLE IN POLLINATION	2021	BYERS	1,434	1	1
WORKING WITH LONGITUDINAL DATA: QUANTIFYING DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES USING FUNCTION-VALUED TRAIT MODELING	2021	BAKER	665	1	1
WHY ARE SOME HUMMINGBIRD-POLLINATED PLANT CLADES SO SPECIES-RICH?	2022	ABRAHAMCZYK	543	0	0
PREDICTING INVASION RISK OF GRASSES IN NOVEL ENVIRONMENTS REQUIRES IMPROVED GENOMIC UNDERSTANDING OF ADAPTIVE POTENTIAL	2022	BELLIS	599	0	0

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7. Special Issues in the works
8. AI policy
9. Double anonymous review
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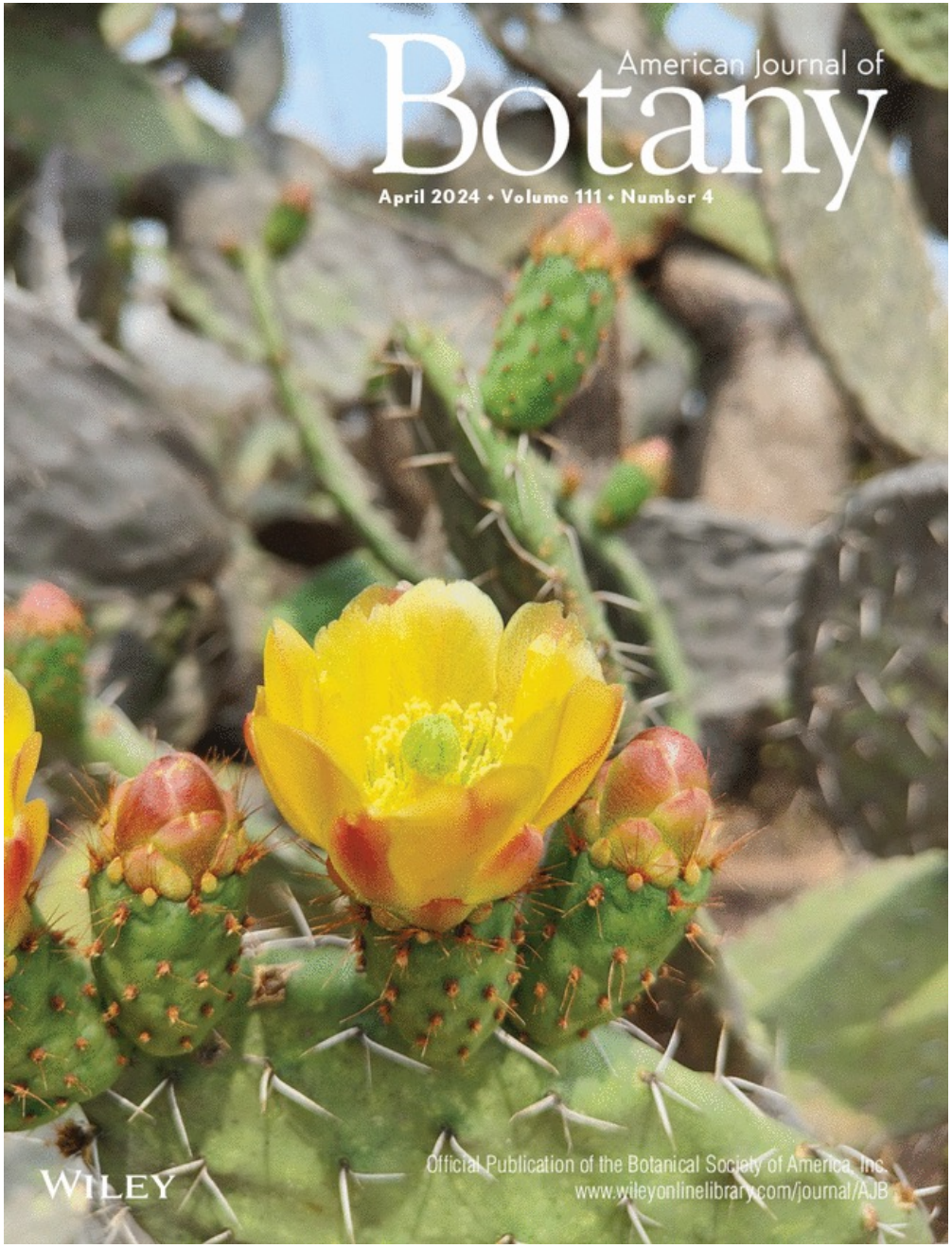

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$$\text{IF} = \frac{\text{Citations in 2023 to papers published in 2021 (497) and 2022 (271)}}{\text{Number of citable papers published in 2021 (174) and 2022 (153)}}$$

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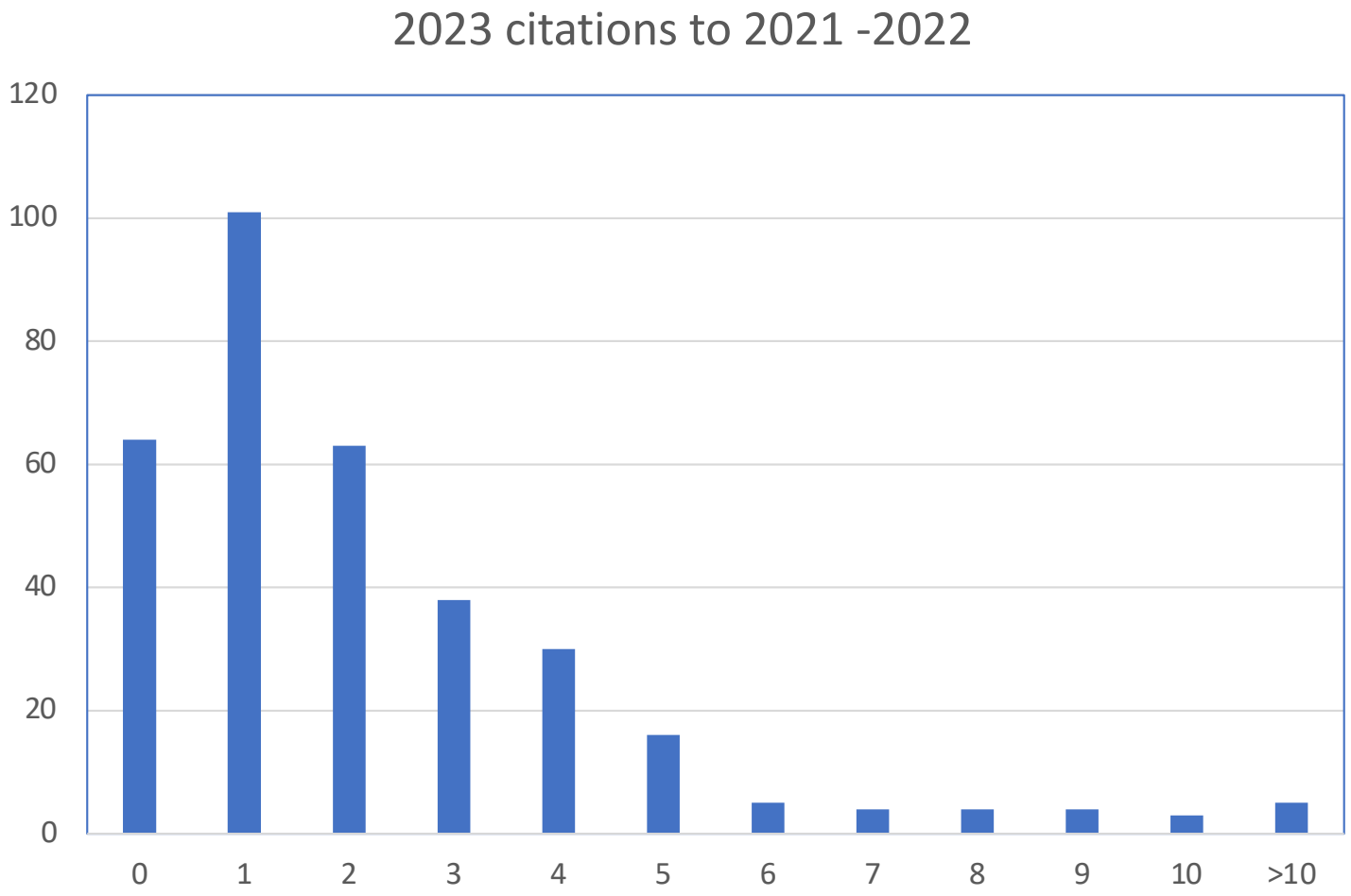
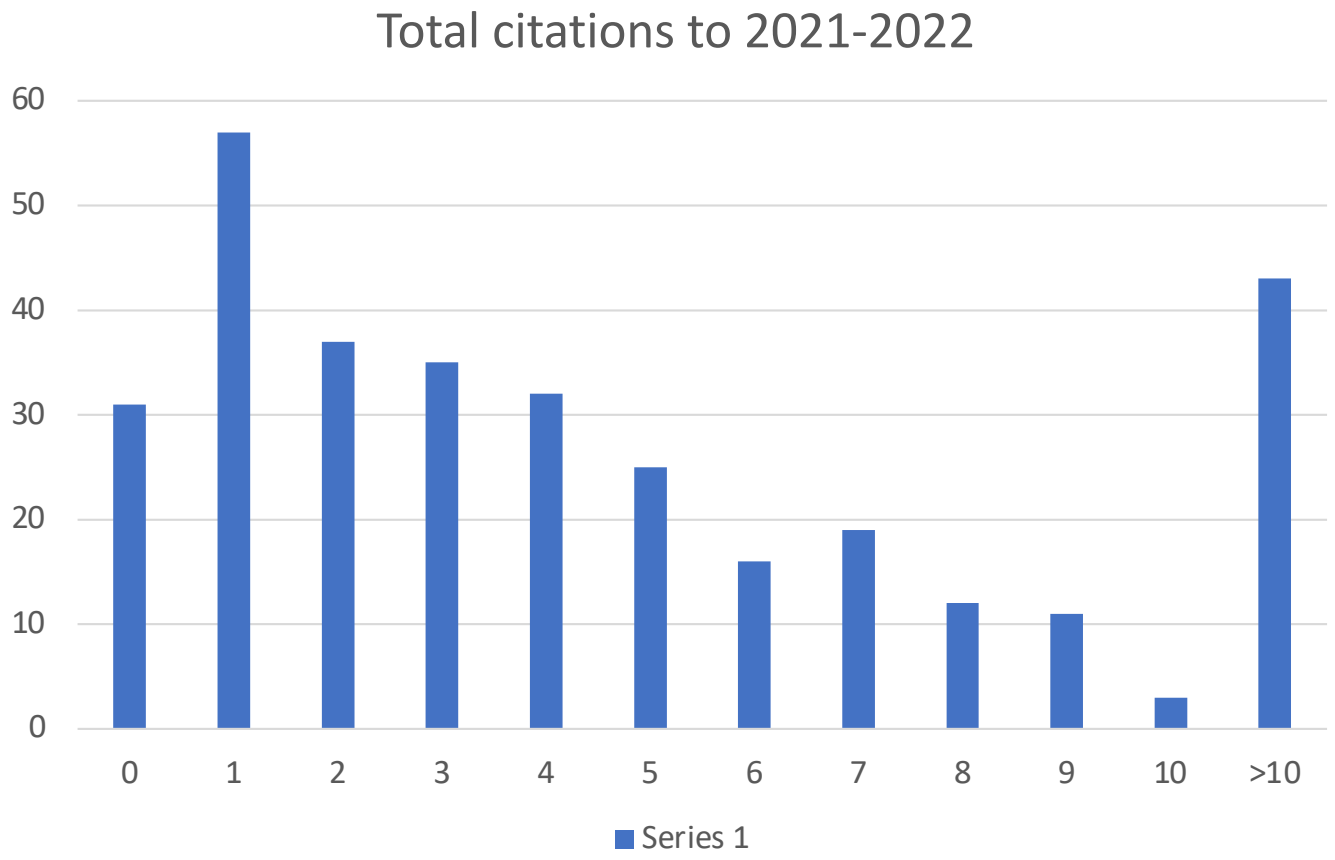
Expected in June!

327 citable items in 2021-2022
2.4% ≥ 10 citations (down from 4.33%)
67.8% ≤ 2 citations (up from 52%)
19.5% = 0 citations (up from 14.8%)




Total citations to 2021-2022
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
>10
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Categories of Papers Submitted

Section/Category	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Ecology	47	111	117	112	124	118
Evolution & Phylogeny	26	61	69	57	73	62
Reproductive Biology	17	40	55	42	37	51
Anatomy and Morphology	6	31	49	33	37	36
Physiology and Biochemistry	8	23	11	17	19	22
Ecophysiology	10	21	24	27	35	37
Paleobotany	5	19	14	16	28	12
Genetics	9	18	17	25	36	29
Systematics & Phytogeography	15	18	20	21	34	18
Population Biology	4	17	10	14	13	19
Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics	4	11	14	6	9	13
Economic Botany	4	8	6	8	5	2
Cell Biology	4	3	3	3	4	2
Education	0	1	1	0	0	1
Biomechanics	0	0	6	2	7	1
	159	382	416	383	461	423

The MSS numbers for 2024 are through 10 May 2024.The table above includes numbers, not percentages. These are submitted manuscripts, not published papers, and not all submissions list a category.

Title	Pub Year	Type	Lead Author	Download 12 Months	Total Cites	2023 Cites
Phylogenomic discordance suggests polytomies along the backbone of the large genus solanum	2022	RI	GAGNON	1,702	27	15
Exploring angiosperms353: an open, community toolkit for collaborative phylogenomic research on flowering plants	2021	SI	BAKER	2,605	28	13
A meta-analysis of single visit pollination effectiveness comparing honeybees and other floral visitors	2021	RI	PAGE	1,032	22	13
A nuclear phylogenomic study of the angiosperm order myrtales, exploring the potential and limitations of the universal angiosperms353 probe set	2021	SI	MAURIN	3,100	37	12
Evolutionary ecology of agave: distribution patterns, phylogeny, and coevolution (an homage to Howard S. Gentry)	2021	SI	EGUIARTE	789	25	11
Pleistocene aridification underlies the evolutionary history of the caribbean endemic, insular, giant Consolea (Opuntioideae)	2021	SI	MAJURE	352	20	10
Get the shovel: morphological and evolutionary complexities of belowground organs in geophytes	2021	RI	TRIBBLE	1,545	17	10
The role of ontogeny in wood diversity and evolution	2021	Rev	ONYENEDUM	1,625	14	10
Settling a family feud: a high-level phylogenomic framework for the Gentianales based on 353 nuclear genes and partial plastomes	2021	SI	ANTONELLI	2,700	29	9
Parasites on parasites: hyper-, epi-, and autoparasitism among flowering plants	2021	Rev	TEIXEIRA-COSTA	1,910	21	9
Comprehending Cornales: phylogenetic reconstruction of the order using the angiosperms353 probe set	2021	SI	THOMAS	1,352	18	9
The vessel wall thickness-vessel diameter relationship across woody angiosperms	2022	RI	OLSON	886	11	9
Hundreds of nuclear and plastid loci yield novel insights into orchid relationships	2021	SI	PEREZ-ESCOBAR	3,452	27	8
Unexplored dimensions of variability in vegetative desiccation tolerance	2021	SI	MARKS	814	25	8
Macrophenology: insights into the broad-scale patterns, drivers, and consequences of phenology	2021	RI	GALLINAT	2,291	16	8
Phylogenomics and biogeography of Cunoniaceae (Oxalidales) with complete generic sampling and taxonomic realignments	2021	SI	PILLON	1,830	14	8
Joining forces in Ochnaceae phylogenomics: a tale of two targeted sequencing probe kits	2021	SI	SHAH	1,552	25	7
Quaternary diversification of a columnar cactus in the driest place on earth	2021	SI	MERKLINGER	474	20	7
Plant epigenetics: phenotypic and functional diversity beyond the dna sequence	2021	RI	BOQUETE	1,463	17	7
Genetic diversity, gene flow, and differentiation among wild, semiwild, and landrace chile pepper (Capsicum annuum) populations in oaxaca, mexico	2022	RI	JARDON-BARBOLLA	397	10	7
Evidence linking life-form to a major shift in diversification rate in Crassula	2022	RI	LU	434	9	7

Phylogenetics/systematics – Angiosperm 353 Special Issue

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Exploring angiosperms353: an open, community toolkit for collaborative phylogenomic research on flowering plants	2021	SI	BAKER	2,605	28	13
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Phylogenomics and biogeography of Cunoniaceae (oxalidales) with complete generic sampling and taxonomic realignments	2021	SI	PILLON	1,830	14	8
Joining forces in ochnaceae phylogenomics: a tale of two targeted sequencing probe kits	2021	SI	SHAH	1,552	25	7
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Macroevolution/character evolution

Title	Pub Year	Type	Lead Author	Download 12 Months	Total Cites	2023 Cites
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Physiology/function/form

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We are a society journal!

American Journal of Botany (AJB) is an internationally renowned journal publishing innovative, significant research of interest to a wide audience of scientists in all areas of plant biology (including ecology, evolution, physiology, biodiversity, systematics, development, genetics, paleobotany, structure and function), all levels of organization (ecosystem to molecular), and all organisms studied by botanical researchers (including land plants, algae, fungi, lichen, cyanobacteria).

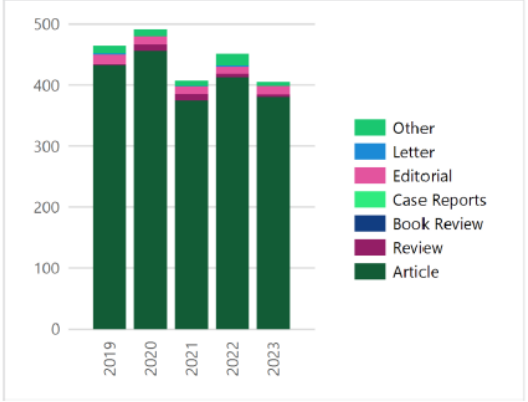
Impact Factor is only one measure of “success” that primarily focuses on ”hot topics” cited quickly during a very short window.

IF is important to (some) authors, especially IF>3

Also important to publish quality science in **all areas**!

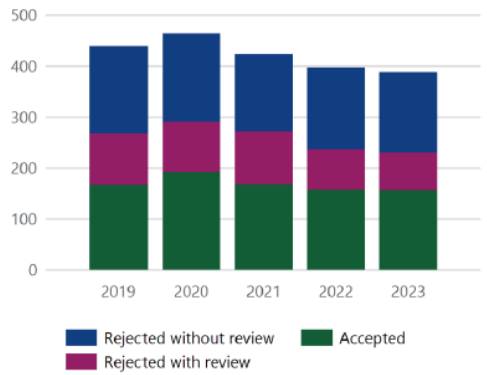
We need your help to bring strong papers to *AJB* that serve our community!

Total submissions by type



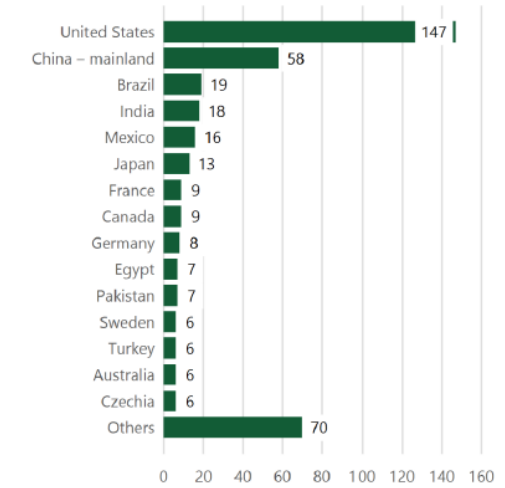
The total number of submissions in 2023 decreased (-10.2%) compared with 2022. This compares with an increase (6.1%) across all Wiley journals in the Plant Science subject area.

Accepted and rejected articles



This chart shows the number of accepted and rejected articles listed in the year the final decision was taken. The accept rate was 40.2% in 2023, an increase from 39.5% in 2022. This compares with an accept rate of 26.8% across all Wiley journals in the Plant Science subject area.

Country/region of submissions



This chart shows the top 15 countries/regions ranked by the number of submissions to the journal. All submissions counted were submitted in 2023. The remaining countries/regions are are grouped into "Others".

Author Experience: Review

Speed of review process

Includes all articles, including those that were rejected without peer review

Median number of days (min-max)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Submission to first decision	30 (1-142)	41 (1-223)	44 (1-195)	41 (1-192)	36 (1-195)
Submission to final decision	40 (1-325)	58 (1-400)	62 (1-370)	45 (1-400)	57 (1-477)
Submission to acceptance	108 (1-325)	122 (1-400)	148 (1-370)	145 (1-400)	129 (1-477)

Excluding articles that were rejected without peer review

Median number of days (min-max)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
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Review quantity

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of review invitations sent	1,440	1,609	1,342	1,549	1,350
Number of review invitations accepted	591	711	517	618	524
Number of reviews completed	623	718	545	633	525
Median days to review completion	14	21	22	21	21

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AJB articles have a long half life!!!!

Most viewed articles on Wiley Online Library 2023

Rank	Article Title	Vol	Iss	Views	
1	The Fungi: 1, 2, 3 ... 5.1 million species?	98	3	9,083	2011
2	Green algae and the origin of land plants	91	10	7,512	2004
3	What's next for science communication? Promising directions and lingering distractions	96	10	5,388	2009
4	Constructing a broadly inclusive seed plant phylogeny	105	3	5,267	
5	Hundreds of nuclear and plastid loci yield novel insights into orchid relationships	108	7	4,400	
6	Bryophyte diversity and evolution: Windows into the early evolution of land plants	98	3	4,058	2011
7	Evolution and development of monocot stomata	104	8	3,872	
8	The science of plant morphology: definition, history, and role in modern biology	88	10	3,865	2001
9	Environmental DNA as an emerging tool in botanical research	110	2	3,340	
10	Contributions of green light to plant growth and development	100	1	3,332	

This table includes details of the 10 most-accessed articles of 2023. The average number of views per article published in your journal in 2023 was 527. Across all journals that Wiley publishes in the same subject area, the average number of views per article was 739.

Special Issues

2023

Pollen as the Link Between Phenotype and Fitness

Led by Øystein H. Opedal, Rocío Pérez-Barrales, Vinícius L. G. Brito, Nathan Muchhala, and Agnes Dellinger [with Miquel Capó handling a companion paper in *APPS*]

2024

Joint AJB/APPS special issues on *Polyploidy,* titled **Twice as Nice: New Techniques and Discoveries in Polyploid Biology**

Led by Mike Barker, Kelsey Glennon, Yunnian Jiao (*AJB*), and Michael McKain, Ya Yang, and Agnieszka Golicz (*APPS*)

2024

Plant-microbe interactions in tropical and subtropical ecosystems: **The role of plant-microbe interactions in plant community dynamics of tropical and subtropical ecosystems**

Led by Meghna Krishnadas, Gaurav Kandlikar, and Adriana Corrales

2025

Understanding novel fire regimes using plant trait–based approaches

Led by Kasey Barton, Stephanie Yelenik, Dylan Schwilk, Imma Oliveras, Tim Curran, Pedro Jaureguiberry

Any ideas for topics?

Please be mindful of diversity and inclusion when selecting reviewers (links in AE report)

EEB early career reviewer list https://sites.google.com/view/ecrdatabase/home

Diversify EEB https://diversifyeeb.com/

Diversify Plant Science https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ygduel8h-BSq1irE-guLD-CbFrSHdykHHXFGt5PiW9Y/edit#gid=1813523959

Women in Plant Biology https://community.plantae.org/organization/women-in-plant-biology/dashboard

Black Botanists https://blackbotanistsweek.weebly.com/

Google Scholar links

Other ideas????

English Editing

https://www.writefull.com/

https://www.grammarly.com/

The free version appears to work very well!

Topics for discussion:

Article discovery
Article ”quality”
What are our authors looking for?
What criteria are we using to judge whether papers should go out for review?
What kinds of data could help you know where to “set the bar”?

Double anonymous review

New ideas for areas of research, review topics, special issues

Social Media

We are active on

Twitter/X: @Botanical_#AJB; #SocietyJournal

BlueSky: @botsocamerica.bsky.social

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/botanicalsocietyofamerica/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BotanicalSocietyofAmerica