

AJB Editorial Board Meeting July 11, 2023

Attending: Pam Diggle, Kangshan Mao, Bruce Tiffney, Steve Weller, John Freudenstein, Qiang Sun, Sandy-Lynn Steenhuisen, Simon Poppinga, Jürg Schönenberger, Beata Zagorska-Marek, Jeanne Tonnabel, Mary Berbee, Daniel Potter, Joe Williams, Doug Soltis, Sarah Wyatt, Jeff Osborn, Sean Graham, Johan Dahlgren, Dave Carr, John Kiss, Carol Goodwillie, Julissa Roncal, Ignacio Escapa, Andrew Schnabel, Emily Sessa, Susan Kephart, Mario Blanco Sanchez, Robert Schaeffer, Rebecca Drenovsky, Shelly Gaynor, Ana Flores, Kasey Barton, Liming Cai, Gillian Greenough, Amy McPherson, Rich Hund, Beth Parada

Pam: thank you and introductions. Special welcome to new AEs and thank you to retiring AEs.

Agenda as given on the first PPT slide.

Join us for a drink in Boise if you're coming to Botany 2023.

Transition to OA. Conversation precipitated by tweet from Associate Editors of the *Journal of Biogeography*; editorial board is on strike in protest of transition to fully OA because it disadvantages authors from low-income countries and favors those working in well-funded fields. Also, because the OA model works by publishing a higher volume of papers, AEs have a greater workload. Pam wants to emphasize that the BSA publications' relationship with Wiley is different, because *AJB/APPS* are Society owned, and our relationship is governed by a contract that's negotiated between Wiley and the BSA.

AJB does offer OA. Wiley has negotiated many agreements with institutions that allow authors based at those institutions to have their APCs covered for OA publication (see <https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/15372197> for more information). The publishing industry business model is moving very fast; thanks to Amy for keeping up to date on these changes. *AJB's* OA APCs are still relatively modest; no APCs for BSA members publishing non-OA. All *AJB* articles become freely accessible after 1 year.

Amy is participating in various groups/listservs with other Society publishers to keep informed and discuss repercussions of OA developments. Some of *AJB's* biggest competitors are some of the OA journals that aggressively target authors to contribute to special issues and promote quick turnaround of papers.

Open call for editors: One of Pam's goals as EiC has been to increase diversity on the board, but is limited by her own contacts and knowledge. Will be doing an open call (based on the British Ecological Society journals) to help with this. She's also happy to receive recommendations for new board members.

Areas needed: all areas, but especially physiological ecology; reproductive biology; pollination; mating systems; fungi; phycology.

AJB Reviews section: Started working on this about 5 years ago, both because these are useful and because they're highly cited. Kasey Barton is our Reviews Editor.

Kasey: *AJB* has been actively publishing reviews for about 3 years; it took some time and work to get this off the ground. Primarily getting submissions by invitation; many authors respond positively; they are then asked to submit an outline to confirm that the proposed review meets our criteria (see slide). It can then sometimes take years for the review to be submitted. We'd like to have a review in every issue. Please suggest potential topics and authors who we can contact. We're also trying to increase the number of unsolicited reviews; this needs to happen through word of mouth and people reading the journal and knowing that *AJB* is an outlet for Reviews. To see all of the Reviews published to date go to:

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

Synthesis Prize/Papers: "Brainchild" of Sean Graham

Sean: Idea inspired by *New Phytologist* Tansley Reviews. Brought proposal to BSA board and this was approved. Prize \$2000. Idea was to encourage papers from early career scientists on newly emerging areas/new perspectives on established fields. First year (2022-2023): 20 applicants, selected 7-8 to submit, Liming Cai was the winner. Application is simple; committee (Sean, Pam, Kasey Barton, Lucia Lohman, Amy) review applications. Papers go through normal review process. A different panel chooses the winner. 2023-2024 is in process; waiting for MS submissions. Articles are being widely read and beginning to be cited; drawing readership to *AJB*. We encourage you to encourage early career members of your lab to apply. Synthesis papers are here [https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1537-2197.synthesis](https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)1537-2197.synthesis)

Update on ECAB from Emily Sessa: Goal is to get input from early career researchers. They also spearhead Virtual Issues and Twitter Takeovers. Recently did a VI on Endangered Species Day. Another VI is in the works on polyploidy.

Overview of topics we're discussing with ECAB:

- OA is a big topic---balance between who is paying (author vs. reader). Can early career folks afford OA? The answer is no: they depend on their labs for funding. This is a big challenge we're facing. Illustrates that OA is an equity/access issue as well.
- ECAB provided input/feedback on process spearheaded by Briana to develop decision tree for how APC waivers are awarded for *APPS*.
- Where readers are finding articles: social media (Twitter, Mastodon, Threads?), ResearchGate, Google Scholar, etc.
- Discussion of use of AI in scholarly research: using AI to develop abstracts, etc.

Each *AJB* issue includes Highlights: short summaries of a few articles from each issue to help increase visibility. Please tell Pam when an article you're handling would be good to feature in the Highlights.

OTNOTs: Series of short essays to introduce readers to wide variety of topics: what's exciting, where is that topic headed. Have managed to keep the articles short so that they are treated as front matter and are not counted by Clarivate toward the denominator for IF calculation. As with the Reviews, it's a process to get these in. Please send suggestions.

Overview of citations for OTNOTs and Reviews to see how these are contributing to *AJB*'s IF.

Want to point out the Special Collections tab (on the *AJB* website):

<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/topic/vi-categories-15372197/virtual-issues/15372197>

Endangered Species Day

OTNOTS

Special Issues

Reviews

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

Impact Factor: For better or worse, this is an important measure for a journal. *AJB*'s decreased slightly to 3.0. Clarivate has changed how the calculation is done, and this has affected IFs across many journals. Reminder of the calculation: 2023 IF is based on the citations in 2022 to articles published in 2020 and 2021. So the IF is biased toward papers on subjects that are highly visible and timely (as opposed to papers that need time to generate attention). Worth pointing out that *AJB* doesn't bias what papers they publish because of IF. It's always been important that *AJB* is a Society journal and needs to continue to serve the Society members. But it's a balancing act. Pam does a lot of desk rejects on submissions that aren't suitable or won't generate interest. AEs are also encouraged to consider whether submissions will generate any interest.

Pointing out that *AJB* papers have staying power; many papers published decades ago continue to generate downloads and citations.

Kasey: Question: It's clear that *AJB* papers are being used as references (downloaded) and get some citations, but not necessarily highly cited. Why do downloads not translate to citations?

John Kiss: Question: Importance of IF with self-citations. Amy: This is only a problem when the difference is substantial, because that raises the possibility that there's something going on (editors requesting/requiring citations to papers published in their journal).

Distribution of citations that IF is based on: Seeing increase in papers published more than 10 times and decrease in papers cited 2 or less times. Sean pointed out there are fewer papers receiving 0 citations. Difference in median citations for research papers vs. review articles is

worth pointing out. A lot of the papers highly cited in the current IF window were from the Angiosperms353 issue. Also macroevolution, character evolution, etc. Special issues also contribute strongly to IF.

Acknowledgment of how difficult it is to find reviewers. BSA is holding a Botany360 webinar to give advice for how to successfully review a paper. Please contact Amy if you're interested in participating.

AJB AEs can contribute to the success of the articles both by finding good reviewers and providing their own comments. We're also discussing the importance of titles and key words; *AJB* titles tend to focus on organisms with the research question being secondary; suggestion that the gist of the article is better communicated by focusing on the research question. Please help Pam by being vigilant about titles; this will be helpful in improving visibility of *AJB* papers.

Update on Special issues:

2022: great special issue on Quantitative Fitness Related Traits

(<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15372197/2022/109/11>)

2023: Pollen as the Link between Phenotype and Fitness

(<https://bsapubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15372197/2023/110/6>)

2024: Joint *AJB-APPS* special issue on polyploidy

2024: Plant-microbe interactions

If you have ideas for special issues or guest editors to help with these, please share with Pam.

Thank you for improving *AJB*'s time to first decision: improved from during COVID.

Shared links to sites to help find reviewers.

Plug for the Botany360 webinar on reviewing.

Comment from Sean: Young authors are not trained how to cite; they tend to cite a Review Article as an example for something that goes back much further. Can handling editors watch for this as well? Maybe an OTNOT on how to cite would be useful?