

American Journal of Botany Council Report - 2005

- The transition to the new Editor-in-Chief (EiC) occurred 1 December 2004; this is the first report of the present EiC. Thanks to Karl Niklas, Caroline Spellman, and Elizabeth Lawson for the generous assistance they provided during the transition to the new editorial team. The current editorial staff includes Dr. Claire Hemingway (outgoing Managing Editor), Ms. Amy McPherson (incoming Managing Editor), and Dr. Beth Hazen (Production Editor and lead copy editor) and several freelance copy editors.
- The adoption and full implementation of online manuscript submissions and subsequent handling permitted the relocation of the AJB Editorial Office to the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. BSA Executive Director Bill Dahl was instrumental in organizing and implementing this centralization, as well as assisting with hiring. All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to that address (American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-9554; fax 314-577-9515; email to: ajb@botany.org; www.amjbot.org).
- Associate Editors (AEs) have become more involved in the publication process. Their responsibilities now include suggesting reviewers, reading and evaluating reviews, and making recommendations for the EiC's final decision.
- A Special Papers Editor (Darleen DeMason) is in place, and a new Book Reviews Editor has been appointed (Michael Christianson). Suggestions for special paper topics and books and reviewers are encouraged.
- The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* has risen from 2.373 in 2003 to 2.438 in 2004; however, the Journal's ranking among plant science journals fell from 19 to 21.
- The Journal is now consistently available at the first of a month, rather than mid-month. Prices for color illustrations have been reduced by 65%, backdated to January 2005.
- Authors are strongly encouraged to ask themselves what in their papers is important enough that all plant biologists need to know; what major question in biology in general or botany in particular is the research addressing; what explicit significant question has been addressed or what hypothesis tested; why should someone outside the specific discipline of the paper care about the results; and how will knowledge of general principles and mechanisms of biology be expanded by publication of this paper?

STATISTICS:

Manuscript Types and Processing Time

For Period: 1/1/2004 - 7/1/2004

Manuscript Type	Total # of Submitted Manuscripts	Accept Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Manuscripts	Total # of Rejected Manuscripts	Total # of Pending Manuscripts	Days from Receipt to First Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research Article	185	57	99	76	10	66.47	106.94
Special Paper	19	94	17	1	1	59.72	69.72

Brief Communication	5	33	1	2	2	17.67	17.67
Total	209	60	117	79	13	65.11	102.16

For Period: 1/1/2005 - 7/1/2005

Manuscript Type	Total # of Submitted Manuscripts	Accept Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Manuscripts	Total # of Rejected Manuscripts	Total # of Pending Manuscripts	Days from Receipt to First Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research Article	212	–	34	89	89	58.19	69.26
Brief Communication	11	–	1	7	3	54.27	55
Special Paper	1	–	0	0	1	0	0
Total	224	–	35	96	93	57.65	68.39

Manuscript Categories: Submissions to Journal

Manuscript Category	1/2005 - 7/2005	1/2004 - 7/2004
	Total 05	Total 04
Ecology	65	56
Reproductive Biology	64	48
Systematics and Phytogeography	35	16
Systematics	30	46
Population Biology	24	23
Anatomy and Morphology	23	8
Genetics and Molecular Biology	16	17
Structure and Development	14	3
Paleobotany	11	5
Developmental Biology and Genetics	10	9
Physiology and Biochemistry	7	3
Physiology and Development	7	1
Tropical Biology	7	8
Phycology	2	1
Bryology and Lichenology	1	2
Cell Biology	1	*
Pteridology	1	1
Mycology and Plant Pathology	**	1

* Not a heading in 2004

** Not a heading yet used in 2005

Revised Categories for 2005, implemented in 92(8) issue

Anatomy and Morphology
 Bryology and Lichenology
 Cell Biology
 Developmental Biology and Genetics
 Ecology
 Mycology and Plant Pathology

Paleobotany
 Phycology
 Physiology and Biochemistry
 Population Biology
 Pteridology
 Reproductive Biology
 Systematics and Phytogeography

Manuscript Tracking Report

	2004							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Total Manuscripts Submitted (originals + revisions)	41	46	49	45	56	40	45	322
	2005							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Original Manuscripts Submitted	50	37	42	41	31	38	35	274
Revised Manuscripts Resubmitted	35	43	26	26	41	50	47	268
Returned for Revisions	11	13	12	22	31	24	20	133
Manuscripts Rejected/Returned	18	9	18	12	19	24	17	117
Rejected With Review	3	6	11	2	15	10	6	53
Returned Without Review	15	3	7	10	4	14	11	64
Rejected After Revisions	2	1	0	0	0	2	3	8
Accepted after Revisions	27	22	18	15	17	28	24	151
Manuscripts Withdrawn	6	2	1	11	2	2	3	27
Total Manuscripts Submitted (originals + revisions)	85	80	68	67	72	88	82	542

Respectfully submitted,
 Judy Jernstedt
 Editor-in-Chief

Claire Hemingway
 Managing Editor

Amy McPherson
 Managing Editor

11 August 2005