

The American Journal of Botany
August 15th 2001 – July 15th 2002 Annual Report

1. Publication status		Year	MS Received	Total Pages	Publications			
		2001 – 2002	356	2,189 ¹	232 ²			
		2000 – 2001	347	2,184	224			
		1999 – 2000	325	1,804	189			
		1998 – 1999	301	1,820	181			
		1997 – 1998	325	1,802	212			
		1996 – 1997	323	1,728	181			
		1995 – 1996	325	1,618	176			
2. Manuscript status		2001–2002	2000–2001	1999 – 2000	1998 – 1999	1997 – 1998	1996 – 1997	1995 – 1996
Accepted or at <i>Allen Press</i>		116	147	166	113	105	92	95
Out for review		110	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>46</u>
total		226	192	213	186	173	134	141
3. Production schedule		2001–2002	2000–2001	1999 – 2000	1998 – 1999	1997 – 1998	1996 – 1997	1995 – 1996
Receipt to final editorial decision								
excluding split reviews		1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
including split reviews		2.1 ⁴	3.5	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.0
Receipt to publication		4.5 ⁵	7.4	8.3	7.7	7.5	6.0	6.0

¹ On average, 182 pages per issue; 19.9 papers et al. per issue; 9.4 pages per paper (decline in the length of papers, e.g., 9.8 pages per paper in 2000 – 2001).

² 225 research articles; 8 brief communications; 3 special papers. An additional 7 book reviews were published. Total = 239 manuscripts.

⁴ ~17% of all manuscripts received a ‘split decision’; 54% of all of these manuscripts were accepted; rejection rate for all manuscripts, on average, was ~ 41%.

⁵ Receipt of final manuscript to appearance in print. Time from submission to appearance in print ~ 11.5 months due to delay of authors providing revised manuscripts for 3rd review or final manuscripts after successful first round of reviews. The time to appearance in print is governed by the number of manuscripts published per issue not by the efficiency of journal staff.

4. Highlights: Backlog of manuscripts reduced significantly since the adoption of new signatures. Turn-around time from receipt of final manuscripts to appearance in print reduced by ~60% (compared to August 2000 – July 2001). Special Papers and book reviews have not been actively solicited, although we continue to look for excellent SPs and will continue to publish reviews of important new books. Citation Index ranking of the *AJB* increasing. *AJB* has been mentioned in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Science News*.

5. Recommendations: Maintain current issue-size. Maintain manuscript backlog at ~100 manuscripts. Target 6–8 months as optimal turn-around time from submission to appearance in print. Maintain average manuscript length by continued rigorous review, encouraging authors to reduce length, and discourage publication of large data sets, voucher tables, and similar materials in bound-copy. Shift readership from bound- to electronic-copy. Support request for staff annual salary increments. Hired a copy editor at junior level (one of our staff has left for health reasons). Reduce institutional and individual subscription rates in developing countries (as defined by *NATO*). Raise an endowment for the *AJB*. Increase advertising in the *e-AJB*. Appoint *AJB* editor-in-chief as a non-voting member of the *BSA* EC.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karl J. Niklas
 Editor-in-Chief, *AJB* (kjin2 @ cornell.edu)