

***The American Journal of Botany***  
**August 15th 2002 - July 15th 2003 Annual Report**

<b>1. Publication statistics:</b>	<b>02 - 03</b>	01-02	00-01	99-00	98-99	97-98	96-97	95-96
Manuscripts received	<b>351</b>	356	347	325	301	325	323	325
Total pages	<b>1,9441</b>	2,189	2,184	1,804	1,820	1,802	1,728	1,618
Publications	<b>2152</b>	232	224	189	181	212	181	176

<b>2. Current manuscripts:</b>	<b>02 - 03</b>	01-02	00-01	99-00	98-99	97-98	96-97	95-96
Accepted or at <i>Allen Press</i>	<b>166</b>	116	147	166	113	105	92	95
Out for review	<b>67</b>	<u>110</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>46</u>
	<b>233</b>	226	192	213	186	173	134	141

<b>3. Production statistics:</b>	<b>02 - 03</b>	01-02	00-01	99-00	98-99	97-98	96-97	95-96
Time to first editorial decision								
excluding split reviews	<b>1.2</b>	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
including split reviews	<b>2.33</b>	2.1	3.5	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.0
Time to publication	<b>4.84</b>	4.5	7.4	8.3	7.7	7.5	6.0	6.0

<sup>1</sup> On average, 162 pages per issue; 17.9 papers et al. per issue; 9.0 pages per paper (decline in average length of publications, i.e., 9.4 pages in 2001 - 2002).

Decline in pages reflects in part the electronic publication of supplemental materials.

<sup>2</sup> 201 research articles + 5 brief communications + 3 special papers = 209 + 6 book reviews = 215 manuscripts.

Decline in publications reflects decreased solicitation of Invited Papers (to help reduce backlog).

<sup>3</sup> ~17% of all manuscripts received a 'split decision'; 50% of these are rejected (same percentages as in 01 - 02).

<sup>4</sup> Receipt of final manuscript to appearance in print. Time from submission to appearance in print is ~ 9.7 months (a decrease from 11.5 in 2001 - 2002).

**4. Highlights:**

Manuscript backlog < 100 manuscripts. Turn-around time from receipt of final manuscripts to appearance in print remains steady (compared to 2001 - 2002). Special Papers and book reviews are being solicited, e.g., a special 90th anniversary issue planned for 2004. *AJB* mentioned in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Science News*. ISI *AJB* 2002 ranking is 19 out of 135 plant science journals (for comparison, note that *Systematic Botany* = 26, *Annals of Botany* = 36, *International Journal of Plant Sciences* = 45, *Canadian Journal of Botany* = 69). However, the *AJB* impact factor declined to 2.263 (from 2.463 in 2001) as has that of many other botanically oriented journals, e.g., *Annals of Botany* and *Canadian Journal of Botany*)).

**5. Recommendations:**

Budget for current issue size, especially in terms of the 90th anniversary *AJB* issue. Budget to increase the salary of Beth Hazen (our best and hardest working junior copy-editor) by 5% for 03 - 04. Adopt, as planned, an online system for electronic manuscript/review submission and author online-tracking of manuscripts. Change the by-laws to identify two *AJB* co-Editors-in-Chief (one for the electronic version and another for the printed version). Budget for travel and incidental expenses so that the new Editor(s)-in-Chief can travel to Ithaca for *AJB* staff tutorials. Appoint the Editor(s)-in-Chief to a (restructured) Executive Committee. Use e-mail solicitations to encourage subscription and advertise the society journal

(as does Blackwell and other publishers). Use business office staff to help produce the *Plant Science Bulletin*.

Respectfully submitted,

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