

# *The American Journal of Botany*

August 15<sup>th</sup> 2003 – July 15<sup>th</sup> 2004 Annual Report

1. Publication statistics:	<b>03 – 04</b>	02 – 03	01–02	00–01	99–00	98–99	97–98	96–97	95–96
Manuscripts received	<b>449</b>	351	356	347	325	301	325	323	325
Total pages	<b>1,688<sup>1</sup></b>	1,944	2,189	2,184	1,804	1,820	1,802	1,728	1,618
Publications	<b>204<sup>2</sup></b>	215	232	224	189	181	212	181	176
2. Current manuscripts:	<b>03 – 04</b>	02 – 03	01–02	00–01	99–00	98–99	97–98	96–97	95–96
Accepted or at <i>Allen Press</i>	<b>149</b>	166	116	147	166	113	105	92	95
Out for review	<b><u>40</u></b>	<u>67</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>46</u>
	<b>189</b>	233	226	192	213	186	173	134	141
3. Production statistics:	<b>03 – 04</b>	02 – 03	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	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
including split reviews	<b>2.2<sup>3</sup></b>	2.3	2.1	3.5	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.0	6.0
Time to publication	<b>4.1<sup>4</sup></b>	4.8	4.5	7.4	8.3	7.7	7.5	6.0	6.0

<sup>1</sup> On average, ~141 pages per issue; 17 papers et al. per issue; 8.3 pages per paper (decline in average length of publications, i.e., 9.0 pages in 2002 – 2003).

<sup>2</sup> Decline in pages reflects, in part, the electronic publication of supplemental materials.

<sup>3</sup> 192 research articles + 6 brief communications + 2 special papers = 200 + 4 book reviews = 204 manuscripts.

<sup>4</sup> Decline in publications reflects decreased solicitation of Invited Papers (to help reduce backlog).

<sup>5</sup> ~17% of all manuscripts received a 'split decision'; 55% of these are rejected (an increase compared to 02 – 03).

<sup>6</sup> Receipt of final manuscript to appearance in print. Time from submission to appearance in print is ~ 11.5 months (an increase from 9 months in 2002 – 2003).

4. **Highlights:** The backlog stands at 149 manuscripts. This increase is the result of the pressure to copy-edit special issue proofs. As a result, Special Papers and book reviews are not being solicited. *AJB* mentioned in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Science News*. ISI *AJB* impact factor increased from 2.263 in 2002 to 2.373 in 2003. The 2003 impact factor ranks the *AJB* as 19 out of 135 plant science journals. In terms of total citations, the *AJB* is ranked 12 out of 136 journals (for comparison: *New Phytol.* = 11, *J. Exp. Bot.* = 13, *Annual Rev. Plt. Biol.* = 15; *Canadian J. Bot.* = 16).

5. ***AJB*-timeline:** (1995) KJN assumes editorship; by-laws changed to construct an editorial board; computer tracking of manuscript submissions and production schedule. (1996) Cover changed to increase image size; computerized reviewer database established. (1997) Expanded size of *AJB* issues; M&M font-size changed to gain extra pages. (1998) Electronic version of the *AJB*; TOC 'In this Issue' feature; and book reviews. (1999) Cover changed a second time to increase image size. (2000) Paper-gauge changed to gain one signature free of charge; *BSA* mission statement and "*The Journal for All Plant Biologists*" printed above TOC. (2001) "Letters to the editor" for the e-*AJB*. (2003) AllenTrack online manuscript/review submission; Judy Jernstedt appointed next Editor-in-Chief. (2004) Standardize copyright policy/forms; special "Tree of Life" issue for *AJB* 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary; manuscripts received after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 sent to new Editor-in-Chief.

Respectfully submitted,  
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