

## *American Journal of Botany* Council Report - 2008

- The current editorial staff includes Ms. Amy McPherson (Managing Editor), Mr. Richard Hund (Production Editor), Dr. Sophia Balcomb (Assistant Editor/Content Editor), and Dr. Beth Hazen (Manuscript Editor). Sincere thanks to reviewers, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Staff for their diligent work on behalf of the *AJB* over the past year.
- The complete switch to Dartmouth Journal Services and Sheridan Press as the compositor and printer of *AJB*, and EditorialManager as the online manuscript submission and tracking system took place in January, 2008 (Volume 95, Number 1). Thanks to staff, authors, reviewers and Associate Editors for their hard work and patience during this time. It wasn't fun, but we survived.
- All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-5112; fax 314-577-9515; email to: [ajb@botany.org](mailto:ajb@botany.org); [www.amjbot.org](http://www.amjbot.org)). If you return paper copies of reviews or marked manuscripts, please send them to St. Louis, not to Davis.
- Associate Editors (AEs) are integral to the publication process. Their responsibilities include suggesting reviewers, reading and evaluating manuscripts and reviews, and making recommendations for the EiC's final decision.
- Volume 96 (2009) will include a special issue, "The Abominable Mystery: The Origin and Early Diversification of Angiosperms," several special papers about scientific literacy for the "Year of Science," and special papers about current research in the areas of Charles Darwin's book titles (twining plants, domestication of plants and animals, power of movement in plants, and insectivorous plants).
- Suggestions for special paper topics and books reviews are encouraged. Please contact Darleen DeMason ([demason@ucr.edu](mailto:demason@ucr.edu)) for special papers and Michael Christianson ([mxianson@pacbell.net](mailto:mxianson@pacbell.net)) for book reviews.
- The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* fell from 2.969 in 2006 to 2.512 in 2007; the Journal's impact factor ranking dropped from 16 to 26. This was not unexpected, since the popular 2004 special issue no longer counted in the 2007 ratings. We continue to work to improve *AJB*'s standing, importance, and value to authors, readers, libraries, and funding bodies.
- We continue working to bring more *AJB* papers to the wider notice of scientists, educators and the public. It is to the advantage of the authors and the journal to have explicitly stated in the abstract and elsewhere why they did the research they did, what major question in biology in general or botany in particular their research addressed; why anyone outside the specific discipline of the paper should care about the results; and how knowledge of general principles and mechanisms of biology is expanded by publication of this paper. The answers to these questions should appear in the abstract, in part because we intend to use the first sentences of the abstract as RSS feeds, and also to attract readers who might not be specialists in the sub-discipline of the research.
- Authors have two opportunities to submit an acceptable manuscript to *AJB*: the original submission and one revision. If the revised manuscript is deficient in any way other than typos and very minor details, it is declined for publication.
- There continues to be a moving one-year wall for open access to all *AJB* content. BSA members and subscribing institutions have immediate access to all current and all past *AJB* content.
- Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail to [ajb@botany.org](mailto:ajb@botany.org).

**AJB Statistics**

**Manuscript Types and Processing Time**

**ABOT Journal**

**Summary Report**

**for Period:**

**1/1/2007 -**

**12/31/2007**

Manuscript Types	Total # of Submitted Mss.	Accept Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Mss.	Total # of Rejected Mss.	Total # of Pending Mss.	Days from Receipt to 1st Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research Article	348	32	106	223	19	57.61	95.93
Brief							
Communications	26	23	6	20	0	31.15	56.81
Special Paper	4	50	2	2	0	27.5	95.75
Total	378	32	114	245	19	55.47	93.15

**ABOT Journal**

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Research Article	396	42	148	202	46	73.31	147.09
Special Paper	21	100	21	0	0	38.14	119.05
Brief							
Communications	12	36	4	7	1	45.67	113
Book Review	1	100	1	0	0	3	3
Total	430	45	174	209	47	70.66	144.34

## Manuscript Categories Submitted to Journal

<b>Manuscript Category</b>	<b>Total 07</b>	<b>Total 06</b>
Ecology	88	107
Systematics and Phytogeography	70	96
Reproductive Biology	59	94
Population Biology	45	51
Anatomy and Morphology	35	64
Paleobotany	21	19
Genetics	18	20
Physiology and Biochemistry	13	28
Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics	11	10
Cell Biology	6	8
Bryology and Lichenology	5	2
Mycology and Plant Pathology	4	7
Pteridology	2	3
Phycology	1	4

## Decisions on Manuscripts

	<b>Total 2007</b>	<b>Total 2006</b>
Original Manuscripts Submitted	413	479
Revised Manuscripts Resubmitted	449	487
Manuscripts Accepted Without Revisions	0	1
Return with Revisions	193	254
Manuscripts Rejected	229	198
Rejected With Review	108	101
Returned Without Review	121	97
Rejected After Revisions	34	39
Requires Another Revision	268	289
Accepted after Revisions	390	315
Manuscripts Withdrawn	8	10
Original Manuscripts Not Withdrawn	405	469
<b>Total Manuscripts Submitted (originals + revisions)</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>966</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Jernstedt  
Editor-in-Chief

Amy McPherson  
Managing Editor

24 July 2008