

American Journal of Botany Council Report - 2009

- The Editor-in-Chief and editorial office of the *American Journal of Botany* sincerely thank the Associate Editors for their thoughtful and diligent work over the past year specifically, and throughout the entire 95+ years of the journal's existence. The current and previous **editors, authors, and reviewers** should take great pride in the recent recognition by the Special Libraries Association. To commemorate their 100th anniversary, the **Biomedical and Life Sciences Division (DBIO)** of the **Special Libraries Association** selected *AJB* as one of the top 10 most influential journals in biology and medicine over last 100 years. We are in good company: the remaining Top 10 journals include *Science*, *Nature*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *British Medical Journal*, *Journal of Zoology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, and *Journal of Paleontology*.
- Darwin's bicentennial year was marked in fine form through the successful publication of the Darwin Special Issue, "The Abominable Mystery: The Origin and Early Diversification of Angiosperms," in January 2009. The coeditors of this special issue, **Ruth Stockey, Peter Crane, and Sean Graham**, brought together a diverse and thought-provoking group of papers, which has received much attention in the botanical community. Many of the papers from this issue were highlighted in a special review article in *Science* (3 April 2009, Vol 324), and continue to appear in the journal's Top 10 list of most-read articles. The journal and the Society are grateful to Ruth, Peter, and Sean, and to the many authors and reviewers who contributed to this issue.
- The celebration of Darwin's bicentennial continues through special papers, including: **Sandrine Isnard and Wendy K. Silk's** "Moving with climbing plants from Charles Darwin's time into the 21st century," published in the July issue (*AJB*. 2009 96: 1205-1221); **Tim Wing Yam, Joseph Arditti, and Kenneth Cameron's** "Darwin and his orchids," (submitted); and other papers about current research in the areas of Charles Darwin's book titles (domestication of plants and animals, power of movement in plants, and insectivorous plants).
- Also upcoming in late 2009 will be a group of special papers about scientific literacy for the "Year of Science," under **Christopher Haufler's** direction.
- The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* increased slightly to 2.642 in 2008, compared to 2.512 in 2007 (but still down from the high of 2.969 in 2006). The journal's ranking moved from 26 to 27. We anticipate better news in next year's rankings, based on the Darwin Special Issue, the higher page counts and higher article numbers this year, and the special articles being published throughout this year. We are continually working 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. We have done this in several ways in the past year: Recently began working with a science writer to post press releases on EurekAlert
 - Established *AJB* Advance Access to provide articles ahead of print
 - Implemented RSS feeds
 - Routinely offered certain articles free for an initial period of time
 - Negotiated a consortium contract with institutions in China through Charlesworth
 - Promoted the journal through media contacts and through a redesigned web site
 - Promoted the journal through the BSA's Facebook page
- 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 past *AJB*

- content (through 1997) on HighWire Press. Members have access to the entire archive of AJB issues through the BSA web site and JSTOR.
- 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). Dr. Caroline Kellogg has been volunteering as a science writer since May of this year.
 - **Suggestions for special paper topics and books reviews are encouraged.** Please contact Darleen DeMason (demason@ucr.edu) for special papers and Michael Christianson (mxianson@pacbell.net) for book reviews.
 - Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail us at ajb@botany.org.
 - 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; www.amjbot.org).

Manuscript Categories Submitted to Journal

| Manuscript Category | Total 08 | Total 07 | Total 06 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Ecology | 87 | 88 | 107 |
| Systematics and Phytogeography | 64 | 70 | 96 |
| Reproductive Biology | 78 | 59 | 94 |
| Population Biology | 28 | 45 | 51 |
| Anatomy and Morphology | 53 | 35 | 64 |
| Paleobotany | 20 | 21 | 19 |
| Genetics | 21 | 18 | 20 |
| Physiology and Biochemistry | 17 | 13 | 28 |
| Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics | 12 | 11 | 10 |
| Cell Biology | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| Bryology and Lichenology | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Mycology and Plant Pathology | 7 | 4 | 7 |
| Pteridology | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Phycology | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Biomechanics | 1 | | |
| Darwin Special Issue Paper | 16 | | |
| Evolution and Phylogeny | 13 | | |

Respectfully submitted,
 Judy Jernstedt
 Editor-in-Chief

Amy McPherson
 Managing Editor
 13 July 2009