

SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

Quarterly Journal of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists
Office of Editor-in-Chief Alan Whittemore

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JULY 2008

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED/PUBLISHED – 32 (2007) of *Systematic Botany* published one Asa Gray Award tribute, one Peter Raven award tribute, 70 research papers, four book reviews, one advertisement, one list of reviewers for *Systematic Botany Monographs* and *Systematic Botany* in 2007, and one index in a total of 916 pages. The publication dates of the four issues of Volume 31 were 28 February 2007, 12 June 2007, 28 August 2007, and 4 December 2007. In all of 2007, 86 manuscripts were submitted to *Systematic Botany* for review. This count is 21 manuscripts fewer than the number submitted the preceding year. In the first half of 2008, as of June 30, 42 manuscripts have been submitted, six fewer than the number submitted by the midpoint last year. The first two issues of volume 33 (2008) have published one Asa Gray Award tribute, one Raven award tribute, 43 research papers, and one book review in a total of 468 pages (budgeted for 822 pages for the year).

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE – Publication is on schedule, with no delay when we changed the printer and format.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS AND EDITORIAL SPECIALISTS – The efficient handling, soliciting of reviewers, and revisions of manuscripts is carried out by 10 Associate Editors and two Editorial Specialists (Nomenclature and Book Review Editor) who make up the *Systematic Botany* Editorial Committee, together with the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor. The Associate Editors and Specialists are vitally important to the operations of the Editorial Office.

PRESS RUN – Using figures supplied by the business office over the past few years in the statements of ownership, management, and circulation, the table below presents the press run for the first issue of each volume, number of copies mailed as paid circulation, number for free distribution, number retained for back-issue sales, and the total number of pages per volume.

Volume number	Press run for issue three	Number of copies of paid circulation	Number of copies for free distribution	Number of back issues	Total page number in volume
19	1750	1601	no data	143	634
20	1850	1665	no data	189	638
21	1930	1740	no data	184	636
22	1984	1749	no data	229	738
23	2112	1664	no data	442	500
24	2000	1811	no data	157	701
25	1883	1766	no data	81	764
26	1950	1794	no data	120	828
27	1810	1694	391	77	836
28	1765	1638	33	94	820
29	1755	1670	22	63	1036
30	1740	1655	20	65	916
31	1754	1666	20	68	894
32	1740	1692	19	29	944

NEW PUBLISHER AND FORMAT – This is the first year the journal has been printed by Sheridan Press. Our experience with them so far has been very good. Feedback from the Society on our new format, and our new full-color cover (designed by Managing Editor Leigh Johnson) has been very positive.

COLOR PRINTING – The cost of color printing continues to come down. The average cost of a one-page color figure for 33(1) was \$280.00, down from around \$400.00 last year and around \$700.00 two or three years ago. Previously, we charged authors the cost of the color figure, but this varies depending on the size of the signature and whether there are other color figures on the same side of the same signature. We are now charging \$280.00 per figure (*Taxon* charges \$300.00), which evens this out and allows people to pay without waiting for the final bill from Sheridan Press to reach us.

ONLINE ACCESS – Currently, we provide online access through three vendors, BioOne, Ingenta, and Academic OneFile (Thompson Gale). BioOne is a large package that many libraries subscribe to, but our primary provider for purposes of providing online CrossRef links, etc. is Ingenta, which provides access for our members. As reported last year, BioOne now has the ability to provide access to Society members through a members-only area on the Society website - a feature we haven't implemented to date. Ingenta would still be important for providing access for institutional members. BioOne will pay our CrossRef membership (\$250.00/year) if they are our primary provider.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR VOL. 34 (2009) – The proposed Systematic Botany budget for 2009 includes costs for printing and mailing the journal, and online access service for ASPT members and subscribing institutions through Ingenta. The budget for printing and mailing the journal is based on the need to print 822 pages. Current manuscript submission patterns are very close to last year's pace. We have eliminated most of the backlog that resulted from the high number of submissions in 2006, but vol. 33 issues 3 and 4 will have to be shorter than usual to offset the large issues 1 and 2. We have also had some long articles in this issue, so we estimate that volume 34 will need to accommodate approx. 72 articles. At an average length of 11 pages/article plus index etc. 822 pages seems reasonable for volume 33. Production costs should drop slightly under the new contract, but the sharp rise in international postage rates will cause a sharp rise in the cost of mailing.

Projection: pages needed to accommodate current rate of manuscript acceptance

1. Articles (72 mss @ 11 printed pages/paper)	800
2. Book reviews	10
3. Index, announcements, etc.	12
Total projected pages for vol. 33	822

Budget

A. Print

Production, postage, freight \$64000 (based on 822 printed pages)

B. Online access

Ingenta annual fee	\$4800
Allen Press	
CrossRef	<u> \$345</u>
Online total	\$5145

Total print & online proposed budget: \$69,145

The following data have been compiled to document volume and issue length, rates of manuscript submission, length of published papers, backlog of revised final manuscripts, and time from submission of final manuscript to publication for the past several years. From these data I calculate that volume 33 requires 822 pages to keep up with current rates of manuscript submission and acceptance.

Manuscript Submission Rate and Projections

Manuscript no:	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
10	25 Jan	4 Feb	10 Feb	11 March	10 Feb	13 Feb	26 Jan	8 Feb	7 Feb	1 Feb
20	10 March	28 March	6 March	8 April	24 March	23 March	8 March	12 March	28 Feb	25 March
30	20 April	19 April	24 April	13 May	22 April	1 June	26 April	14 April	11 April	6 May
40	11 May	25 May	7 June	9 July	4 June	28 June	11 June	18 May	25 May	4 June
50	~15 July	5 July	10 July	28 Aug	7 July	26 July	13 July	26 June	10 July	--
60	30 Aug	27 Sept	14 Aug	18 Oct	14 Aug	17 Sept	22 Aug	7 Aug	28 Aug	--
70	22 Oct	1 Nov	12 Oct	22 Nov	18 Sept	1 Nov	26 Sept	15 Sept	16 Oct	--
80	15 Dec	11 Dec	17 Dec	--	29 Oct	22 Dec	1 Nov	23 Oct	28 Nov	--
90	--	--	--	--	29 Dec	--	2 Dec	15 Nov	--	--
100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4 Dec	--	--
Submissions	83	88	84	78	91	81	96	107	86	
Number rejected	13	22	17	10	18	15	25	25	20	
Number accepted	70	66	67	68	73	66	71	81	66	
Volume	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	
Papers published	45	49	57	61	70	75	68	75	70	
Backlog	25	17	10	7	3	-9	3	6	-4	

Issue/volume size, number of pages, time from final submission to publication. "Articles" excludes book reviews, announcements, index, etc. Page size changed with vol. 33 (*).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Vol. 25	Vol. 26	Vol. 27	Vol. 28	Vol. 29	Vol. 30	Vol. 31	Vol. 32	Vol. 33
Issue #1 - March									
First paper	1 Aug	12 June	4 May	16 April	9 May	25 May	1 June	10 July	22 May
Last paper	14 Sept	22 Aug	10 July	2 July	24 July	20 Sept	23 Nov	20 Oct	3 Oct
Months wait for publication	6-7	6-8	7-10	8-10	7-10	5-9	3-9	4-7	5-8
Number of articles	13	13	15	18	18	15	20	17	20
Number of pages	155	197	200	215	220	230	221	226	218*
Issue #2 - June									
First paper	25 Sept	27 Aug	10 July	2 July	24 July	22 Sept	3 Oct	24 Aug	1 Aug
Last paper	20 Nov	27 Oct	19 Oct	1 Nov	18 Nov	10 Jan	16 Jan	11 Dec	11 Dec
Months wait for publication	6-8	7-9	7-10.5	7-11	6.5-10	5-8	5-8	6-10	6-10
Number of articles	14	17	17	23	19	18	21	15	23
Number of pages	233	248	233	248	234	227	219	258	250*
Issue #3 - September									
First paper	15 Nov	30 Oct	19 Oct	1 Nov	17 Dec	10 Jan	20 Jan	4 Dec	1 Oct
Last paper	20 March	10 Feb	9 Feb	26 Feb	27 Feb	23 March	27 Apr	20 March	10 March
Months wait for publication	5-9.5	7-10	7-10.5	6-10	6-8	5-8	4-7	6-9	6-11
Number of articles	11	15	14	16	20	17	17	18	14
Number of pages	182	253	198	161	339	222	186	218	
Issue #4 - December									
First paper	5 April	11 Feb	15 Jan	12 March	29 Feb	24 March	5 May	23 Feb	
Last paper	12 June	1 May	10 April	6 May	24 May	20 May	6 July	22 May	
Months wait for publication	5.5-8	7-10	7.5-10.5	7.5-9	6-9	5-8	5-7	6-9	
Number of articles	11	12	15	13	18	18	17	20	
Number of pages	193	129	181	163	214	217	261	242	
Summary									
Number of articles in volume	49	58	61	70	75	68	75	70	
Number of pages (articles.)	763	827	812	787	1007	896	873	916	
Average no. pages/article	15.34	14.74	12.9	11.2	13.4	13.2	11.64	13.1	
No. pages - book reviews	9	4	15	9	12	5	7	6	
Total numbered pages	763	827	836	820	1036	916	894	944	