

SYSTEMATIC BOTANY

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JULY 2009

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED/PUBLISHED – Volume 33 (2008) of *Systematic Botany* published one Asa Gray Award tribute, one Peter Raven award tribute, 72 research papers, five book reviews, no advertisements, one list of reviewers for *Systematic Botany Monographs* and *Systematic Botany* in 2008, and one index in a total of 793 pages. The publication dates of the four issues of Volume 33 were 26 February 2008, 23 May 2008, 22 August 2008, and 13 November 2008. In all of 2008, 97 manuscripts were submitted to *Systematic Botany* for review. This count is 11 manuscripts more than the number submitted the preceding year. In the first half of 2009, as of June 30, 58 manuscripts have been submitted, 16 more than the number submitted by the midpoint last year. The first two issues of volume 34 (2009) have published one Asa Gray Award tribute, one Raven award tribute, 37 research papers, and six book review in a total of 441 pages (budgeted for 822 pages for the year).

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE – Publication is on schedule.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS AND EDITORIAL SPECIALISTS – The efficient handling, soliciting of reviewers, and revisions of manuscripts is carried out by 12 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. Now that manuscript processing is handled electronically, we are able to invite foreign botanists to serve as Associate Editors. Fernando Zuloaga was our first non-US associate editor, and we now have three on board. This allows our editorial board to be more representative of the journal (which is now very international in flavour), and allows us to make better use of non-US reviewers..

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 third 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. Page size changed with vol. 33 (*).

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
33	1743	1650	18	75	793*

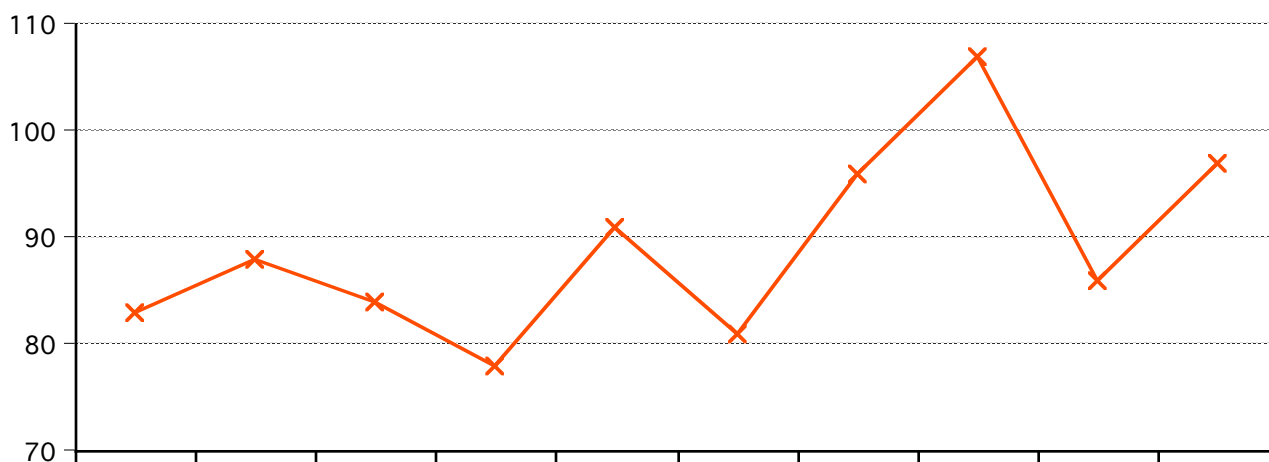
PUBLISHER AND FORMAT – Our experience with Sheridan Press continues to be very good.. Feedback from the Society has been very positive.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF TRANSITION – This is Alan Whittmore's last year as Editor-in-Chief. After

consulting with Pat Herendeen and Warren Wagner, Alan asked Tom Ranker whether he would take over this job, and Tom has agreed. Tom has served as an associate editor since 2004, and has done an excellent job. He will be an excellent Editor-in-Chief, and all three of us are very happy to have him. The schedule for the handover has yet to be determined.

SUBMISSION RATE – The submission rate continues to trend upwards. Our three highest submission years have come in the past four years, and 2009 is far ahead of the pace for any previous year. As of the 17th of July we have 66 submissions - the earliest we have ever received submission number 66 in the past is the third of September. We have really reached the limit to what a volunteer editor can handle manually, and we are beginning to investigate automated manuscript tracking systems, such as those used by many other journals. We do not yet have a price estimate for any of these systems, but we will keep the Council informed of our findings..

Submissions per year, 1999-2008



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. 35 (2010) – The proposed *Systematic Botany* budget for 2010 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 well above last year's pace, but we have no serious backlog to absorb. If submission rates continue high we will probably need more pages next year. We estimate that volume 35 will need to accommodate approx. 72 articles. At an average length of 11 pages/article plus index etc. 822 pages seems reasonable for volume 35. Production costs should remain flat, but note that we were seriously underbudgeted last year - the estimate has been raised accordingly.

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. 35	822

Budget

A. Print
 Production, postage, freight \$76000(based on 822 printed pages)

B. Online access	
Ingenta annual fee	\$4800
CrossRef	<u>\$345</u>
Online total	\$5145

Total print & online proposed budget: \$81,145

Manuscript no:	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
10	25 Jan	4 Feb	10 Feb	11 Mar	10 Feb	13 Feb	26 Jan	8 Feb	7 Feb	1 Feb	23 Jan
20	10 Mar	28 Mar	6 Mar	8 April	24 Mar	23 Mar	8 Mar	12 Mar	28 Feb	25 Mar	23 Feb
30	20 April	19 April	24 April	13 May	22 April	1 June	26 April	14 April	11 April	6 May	14 Apr
40	11 May	25 May	7 June	9 July	4 June	28 June	11 June	18 May	25 May	4 June	8 May
50	~15 July	5 July	10 July	28 Aug	7 July	26 July	13 July	26 June	10 July	22 July	27 May
60	30 Aug	27 Sept	14 Aug	18 Oct	14 Aug	17 Sept	22 Aug	7 Aug	28 Aug	2 Sept	6 July
70	22 Oct	1 Nov	12 Oct	22 Nov	18 Sept	1 Nov	26 Sept	15 Sept	16 Oct	10 Oct	
80	15 Dec	11 Dec	17 Dec	--	29 Oct	22 Dec	1 Nov	23 Oct	28 Nov	14 Nov	
90	--	--	--	--	29 Dec	--	2 Dec	15 Nov	--	12 Dec	
100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4 Dec	--	--	
Submissions	83	88	84	78	91	81	96	107	86	97	
Number rejected	13	22	17	10	18	15	25	25	20	19	
Number accepted	70	66	67	68	73	66	71	81	66	78	
Volume	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	
Papers published	45	49	57	61	70	75	68	75	70	72	
Backlog	25	17	10	7	3	-9	3	6	-4	6	

Manuscript Submission Rate and Projections. 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 34 requires 822 pages to keep up with current rates of manuscript submission and acceptance. Page size changed with vol. 33 (*). "Articles" excludes book reviews, announcements, index, etc.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
	Vol. 25	Vol. 26	Vol. 27	Vol. 28	Vol. 29	Vol. 30	Vol. 31	Vol. 32	Vol. 33	Vol. 34
Issue #1 - March										
First paper	1 Aug	12 June	4 May	16 April	9 May	25 May	1 June	10 July	22 May	8 Apr.
Last paper	14 Sept	22 Aug	10 July	2 July	24 July	20 Sept	23 Nov	20 Oct	3 Oct	16 Sept.
Months wait for publication	6-7	6-8	7-10	8-10	7-10	5-9	3-9	4-7	5-8	6-9
Number of articles	13	13	15	18	18	15	20	17	20	20
Number of pages	155	197	200	215	220	230	221	226	218*	244*
Issue #2 - June										
First paper	25 Sept	27 Aug	10 July	2 July	24 July	22 Sept	3 Oct	24 Aug	1 Aug	1 Oct.
Last paper	20 Nov	27 Oct	19 Oct	1 Nov	18 Nov	10 Jan	16 Jan	11 Dec	11 Dec	28 Jan.
Months wait for publication	6-8	7-9	7-10.5	7-11	6.5-10	5-8	5-8	6-10	6-10	5-8
Number of articles	14	17	17	23	19	18	21	15	23	17
Number of pages	233	248	233	248	234	227	219	258	250*	196*
Issue #3 - September										
First paper	15 Nov	30 Oct	19 Oct	1 Nov	17 Dec	10 Jan	20 Jan	4 Dec	1 Oct	24 Nov.
Last paper	20 Mar	10 Feb	9 Feb	26 Feb	27 Feb	23 Mar	27 Apr	20 Mar	10 Mar	13 Feb.
Months wait for publication	5-9.5	7-10	7-10.5	6-10	6-8	5-8	4-7	6-9	6-11	7-10
Number of articles	11	15	14	16	20	17	17	18	14	16
Number of pages	182	253	198	161	339	222	186	218	146*	
Issue #4 - December										
First paper	5 April	11 Feb	15 Jan	12 March	29 Feb	24 March	5 May	23 Feb	12 Feb.	15 Apr.
Last paper	12 June	1 May	10 April	6 May	24 May	20 May	6 July	22 May	6 June	
Months wait for publication	5.5-8	7-10	7.5-10.5	7.5-9	6-9	5-8	5-7	6-9	5-9	
Number of articles	11	12	15	13	18	18	17	20	15	
Number of pages	193	129	181	163	214	217	261	242	176*	
Summary										
Number of articles in volume	49	58	61	70	75	68	75	70	72	
Number of pages (articles.)	763	827	812	787	1007	896	873	916	768	
Average no. pages/article	15.34	14.74	12.9	11.2	13.4	13.2	11.64	13.1	10.7	
No. pages - book reviews	9	4	15	9	12	5	7	6	5	
Total numbered pages	763	827	836	820	1036	916	894	944	793	