



Editorial

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Editorial

Despite the world having been once again impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, research in botany has been wealthier than ever. Our journal has received a total of 296 manuscripts submitted, with an acceptance rate of approximately 14%. Forty-eight articles have been published in the past year, which is more than in 2020. Thanks to the efficiency of our editorial board, we are constantly improving publication speed. There are in average 4 days in average from submission to first decision, 43 days from submission to first post-review decision, and 22 days from acceptance to online publication. The increasing success of Botany Letters translates into the impact factor, which has once again increased, reaching 1.744. Our journal is now ranking 132/235 in the Plant Sciences-SCIE JCR¹ category. Almost 540,000 articles were downloaded from the website of Botany Letters, which is 26% higher than downloads received in 2020. The most downloaded article was “Genetic variation underlies the plastic response to shade of snapdragon plants (*Antirrhinum majus* L.)” by Mousset et al. 2021 cover an impressive variety of topics, taxa, and methods. We wish to thank all the authors that helped us make our journal a steady reference in botany in a broad sense and of course our readers.

As usual, a special issue of Botany Letters was devoted to diatoms, with the publication of the proceedings from the 2019 meeting of the ADLaF, the French-speaking diatoms community, thanks to the active work of editor Benoît Schoefs (issue 168(1)). A second special issue was devoted to investigating pollination strategies in a changing world, organized by editor Guillaume Besnard and the guest editors Bertrand Schatz and Mathilde Dufaÿ (issue 168(3)). Studying pollination is more than ever crucial in the present context of pollinator decline and global change, and we are very proud to have hosted such an interesting and timely collection of articles in our journal. Three additional articles from the series “Monographs on Invasive Plants in Europe” have been published in 2021, adding up to the general knowledge on the plant species that put ecosystems at threat.

We are pleased to welcome a new member in our very active editorial board. Lilian Eggers, from the Paris National Museum of Natural History, brings her expertise in systematics and taxonomy, particularly on monocotyledons. In addition to our proficient editors, the success of Botany Letters relies also very much on the major contribution of the many experts, anonymous for most of them, who help us

select the best articles and help the authors improve their manuscripts. On behalf of the Société Botanique de France, we wish to warmly thank them all for their contribution in 2021. The list of experts is published as an online-only document on the website of Botany Letters (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tabg21/current>). Those who need a certificate to testify to this activity may contact Henrietta Thompson (henrietta.thompson@tandf.co.uk) to obtain a reviewer certificate from Taylor & Francis.

The Jussieu prize

To support research in botany, Botany Letters and the Société Botanique de France award every year a prize of 5000 euros to the best article published during the previous year. The Jussieu prize has been awarded this year to the article “Revisiting pollination mode in chestnut (*Castanea* spp.): an integrated approach,” by Clément Larue et al. 2021 published in the special issue “Investigating pollination strategies in a changing world.” The pollination mode of chestnuts, well-known forest trees of the Fagaceae family, is still unclear. Focusing on cultivated *Castanea sativa* trees and hybrids in south-western France, the authors revisited this question by using an integrated approach and showed that all chestnut flower traits examined are compatible with a beetle pollination syndrome. The high uncertainty of this pollination mode and its convergence with wind pollination explain the pervading confusion regarding chestnut pollination. Congratulations to the authors for this major breakthrough in pollination ecology.

Note

1. SCIE: Science Citation Index Expanded; JCR: Journal Citation Reports.

References

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