

Editorial

This is the fourth birthday of the *European Journal of Phycology*, and also the beginning of my fourth year as editor-in-chief. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous editor, Dr Roger Jones, for setting up the present structure of the journal and for initiating the present happy relationship with our publishers, Cambridge University Press. The first term of office for the Associate Editors has now ended, and many thanks are due to all of them for their contributions to the journal. We are very fortunate in that most of the Associate Editors have been able to continue in their posts, and that those retiring have been replaced by distinguished new editors. The important work done by editorial board members, new, retired and continuing, is also much appreciated. Communication between the editorial team and authors is being facilitated by wider use of e-mail and the journal now includes e-mail addresses for authors who supply them. Current instructions to authors are now available on the CUP world wide web site (see address inside journal back cover), and the contents of each issue will appear on the web site two weeks before publication.

I'm glad to report that all issues of Volume 31 (1996) appeared on time or early. Manuscripts that arrived in good shape were usually being published within 7–8 months, the minimum possible for this type of journal at present. This relatively rapid publication rate will be maintained because if a surplus of good papers accumulates then extra journal pages will be purchased. The publication dates now appear inside the cover of each issue. The acceptance rate of manuscripts for the last available period (approximately one year) was 48%. Editorial procedures have been streamlined to ensure more accurate reporting of acceptance rates in future. At present four issues per volume of 96 pages seems about right, and a larger number of pages could not currently be filled without reducing quality. A series of Miniviews is

planned for the journal, starting with this issue. It is hoped that these will provide a platform for individual viewpoints and less formal reviews than those carried by other phycological journals. Ideas for future Miniviews are welcomed.

The first impact factor for EJP (published by the Institute of Scientific Information) for 1994 was 0.600, but figures for the first year of a new title are expected to be low as they are calculated on a 2-year basis. In 1995 the impact factor leapt to 1.000 and we hope that it will continue to increase at the same rate in future!

This issue carries the launch of a new series of colour cover designs, which will now change annually. The first design, showing stained phenolic bodies in *Durvillaea* zygotes, photographed by Drs Clayton and Ashburner (Monash University), echoes the previous cover in a semi-abstract form. In the future, we intend to use a wide range of images in this format, such as half of a centric diatom or part of a satellite false-colour map. The journal has a colour plate fund supported by the British Phycological Society and CUP – authors are encouraged to submit articles that would be enhanced by colour illustrations. Interesting photographs may be incorporated in future cover designs.

During 1996 the inaugural meeting of the European Phycological Society took place in Köln in August as part of the first International Phycological Congress. The minutes were published in the November issue of *The Phycologist* and are also available on the BPS web site (see inside journal back cover). Subscriptions to EJP will be available to members of EPS for the same price as BPS members pay, and it is hoped that the European Society will adopt EJP as its journal. EJP will continue to publish news from Europe, such as future meetings and reports of phycological events.

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