

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

2014 Editor's Report

Stephen L. Gardiner, Editor

Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington

This was my ninth and final year as Editor of the Society's publications. During those 9 yrs, I was fortunate to be assisted by 14 Associate Editors who were dedicated to excellence in science and publication and whose expertise in a wide range of biological organisms (plants and animals) is reflected in the significant breadth of groups represented in the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington (PBSW) (see Table 1). From 2006 through 2014, the PBSW published 342 manuscripts in 4545 pages. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the unfailing assistance of the Associate Editors. On behalf of myself and the Society, I sincerely thank them for all of their efforts. Finally, many individuals (too numerous to list here) published multiple papers in the PBSW during my tenure as Editor. I thank them for their dedication to the PBSW and to the Society.

Manuscript Submissions and Publications for the PBSW, 2006 to 2014

The number of manuscripts submitted in 2014 decreased slightly when compared to recent years (Fig. 1). Using 2010 as a starting point for a comparison, a steady decrease in the number of submitted manuscripts occurred through the years leading to and including 2014. Although the rate of submitted manuscripts decreased only slightly from year to year, the cumulative rate decrease from 2010 to

2014 is significant. Also, when compared to historical numbers (2006–2008), the decrease is even more significant.

The number of published manuscripts also decreased from 2008 through 2012 (Fig. 1). However, the number of published manuscripts in 2012 is low because issue 4 of that year was dedicated to a single manuscript entitled "Amphibians and Reptiles of Guyana, South America: Illustrated Keys, Annotated Species Accounts, and a Biogeographic Synopsis." The number of published manuscripts in 2013 returned to that of recent previous years (2010 and 2011). The notable increase in the number of manuscripts published in 2014 was the result of 18 manuscripts comprising issue 1, which was dedicated to the proceedings of the Fifteenth International Meiofauna Conference.

Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Volume 127, 2014

Issues 1, 2, and 3 of the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Vol. 127, were published in 2014, and issue 4 was published in 2015. Statistics are as follows: 1) issue 1–9 July 2014, 18 manuscripts for 298 pages, 2) issue 2–11 September 2014, 12 manuscripts for 140 pages, 3) issue 3–17 October 2014, 8 manuscripts for 93 pages, and 4) issue 4–9 January 2015, 7 manuscripts for 80 pages. Total manuscripts submitted–33, total manuscripts rejected–4, total pages published–612. Total pages subsidized by the Society–148 (= ~ 24%). This number

Table 1.—Associate Editors of the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington who served during my tenure as Editor, 2006 to 2014.

Name	Years	Topic
Gale A. Bishop	2006–2012	Invertebrate Paleontology
Christopher B. Boyko	2006–2014	Crustaceans (other than copepods & ostracods)
Stephen Cairns	2006–2008	Invertebrates (other than crustaceans)
Michael D. Carleton	2008–2014	Mammals
Gary R. Graves	2006–2014	Birds, Vertebrates other than fishes (1996–2007)
*Rick Hochberg	2008–2014	Invertebrates (other than crustaceans & insects)
Carol Hotton	2006–2014	Plants
Wayne N. Mathis	2006–2014	Insects
Edward O. Murdy	2006–2007	Fishes
Dan H. Nicolson	2006–2012	Classical Languages
Storrs L. Olson	2007	Birds
Janet W. Reid	2006–2014	Copepods & Ostracods
Robert P. Reynolds	2007–2014	Amphibians & Reptiles
Jeffrey T. Williams	2008–2014	Fishes

* Assumed Editor position in 2015.

increased significantly when compared to 2012 (~ 11%) and 2013 (12%) but remains below the 25% value allowed in our contract with Allen Press.

Forty-five manuscripts were published in 2014. This number is higher than for any previous year back to 2009. Thirteen major taxa were represented by 1 or more published papers in 2014. Crustaceans dominated the list of taxa in vol. 127 with 20 papers (11 papers on copepods). Other taxa with more than 1 paper in vol. 127 are: 1) Nematoda–2, 2) Polychaeta–2, 3)

Insecta–4, and Mammalia–2. Similar to circumstances for recent previous years, many of the manuscripts published in 2014 were submitted by authors who have previously published in the Proceedings.

Impact Factor and Other Statistics for the PBSW

The past 5 yrs have been mixed for the PBSW. The yearly impact factor has fluctuated somewhat, whereas the 5-yr

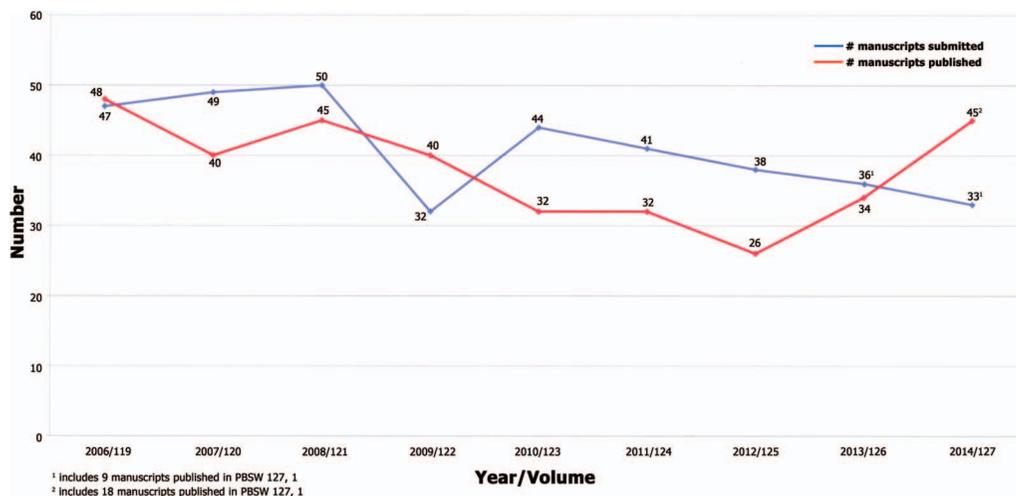


Fig. 1. Manuscripts submitted and published in the PBSW from 2006 to 2014.

Table 2.—Five-yr analysis of certain statistical criteria for the PBSW.

Statistical criterion	Year				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Impact factor	0.643	0.750	0.292	0.662	0.561
5-yr Impact factor ¹	0.593	0.664	0.402	0.582	0.532
Immediacy index ²	0.075	0.031	0.030	0.250	0.120
Half-life ³	>10.0	>10.0	>10.0	>10.0	>10.0
Total citations ⁴	1279	1175	1053	1263	1305
Percent self-citations ⁵	27	14	14	2	2
Number of articles ⁶	40	32	33	24	25

¹ The impact factor based on data from the last 5 yrs.

² The number of citations that year to articles published the same year.

³ The median age of the articles that were cited by the articles published in the journal that year. Half-life is typically shorter for journals that publish cutting-edge research, longer for journals that publish basic research.

⁴ The total number of citations received during a 1-yr period. All citations are included, regardless of when the cited item was published.

⁵ The total number of times articles in a given journal are cited in that journal. If a journal’s self-citations exceed 20%, the journal can be penalized by JCR.

⁶ The number of articles the JCR deems likely to be cited. It excludes all non-peer reviewed articles, editorials, etc.

impact factor has been more steady (Table 2). The number of total citations has been on the increase. Note that total citations can apply to any article published in the journal during any year, not just the 2-yr citation window used to determine the impact factor.

The PBSW competes with other journals whose contents are generally similar to that of the PBSW. Table 3 shows some of key competitors of the PBSW. The journal is categorized in “Biology” and is

ranked 73rd of 85 journals in that category.

During the course of the year, Allen Press monitors what journals are being cited in the PBSW. The journals listed in Table 4 are the top 5 publications on the list, e.g., PBSW authors cited *Zootaxa* 49 times in 2013. The articles being cited could have been published in any year.

Allen Press also tracks which journals are citing PBSW. The journals shown in Table 5 are the top 5 publications to cite

Table 3.—Statistical comparison of certain competitors of the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington.

Statistical criterion	Journal				
	Journal of Mammalogy	Zootaxa	Herpetologica	ZooKeys	Journal of Crustacean Biology
Impact factor	2.225	1.060	1.067	0.917	1.187
Category	Zoology	Zoology	Zoology	Zoology	Marine & Freshwater Biology
Rank ¹	23/152	73/152	70/152	80/152	59/102
Total citations	6671	10,538	2330	1237	2287
Total articles	131	1874	38	474	82
Immediacy index	0.305	0.318	0.184	0.291	0.256
Cited half-life	>10.0	3.8	>10.0	2.3	>10.0
Eigenfactor	0.00796	0.02557	0.00140	0.00586	0.00250
Article influence score	0.665	0.213	0.410	0.285	0.374

¹ Comparison of the PBSW, by impact factor, with other journals in the same category.

Table 4.—Citations from PBSW to certain other journals.

Journal	Year				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Zootaxa	12	16	17	13	49
Herpetologica	2	0	0	2	27
Copeia	0	7	4	5	25
Journal of Herpetology	3	0	2	3	24
American Museum Novitates	2	3	6	0	19

PBSW and are included with total citations from any year of publication; e.g., Zootaxa cited PBSW 337 times in 2013. The articles being cited could have been published in any year.

Other Business

No Bulletins were published in 2014.

As many members know, 2014 was the last year in which all issues of the Proceedings were published in printed format. Beginning in 2015, manuscripts are published sequentially in electronic

Table 5.—Certain journals that cite PBSW.

Journal	Year				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Zootaxa	271	263	260	379	337
Raffles Bulletin of Zoology	93	12	3	11	48
Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom	17	11	18	32	44
ZooKeys	6	11	21	28	38
Journal of Crustacean Biology	36	35	41	20	33

format on the journal's web site. A compilation of the entire year's manuscripts will be printed near the end of each year.

The use of color figures in the Proceedings during 2014 was the strongest to date, with 27 color pages. The cost of color figures in electronic manuscripts is substantially less than the cost when printed. I am hopeful that the decreased cost of color in electronic manuscripts will stimulate an increase use of color in the future volumes of the Proceedings.