

Editorial

PCP in 2003: Rapid Reviewing and Rapid Publication

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Introduction of Online Submission and Review System and its Current Situation

2002 has been a very exciting year for Plant and Cell Physiology. During the last fiscal year we received 367 newly submitted articles, the largest growth ever.

PCP leads the new frontier of online journals. In July 2000, PCP started as an online journal, and an online submission and review system was introduced last May. This online submission and review system runs smoothly and two rapid papers that were submitted online were published in the July issue. Although PCP still accepts manuscripts in the traditional paper format, 70% to 80% of manuscripts are now being submitted online and this tendency will continue to increase. The increase of submissions online is likely due to both the implementation of the online submission and review system, as well as the opening of submissions to non-members in September 2002. The introduction of the online submission and review system promotes internationalization of the review process, and rapid reviewing due to the virtual elimination of delivery delays. To publish your research worldwide as quickly as possible, we encourage you to use our online submission system.

Systems for Rapid Reviewing and Rapid Publication

The introduction of the online submission and review system results in rapid reviewing. We try to inform authors of the results of our review within one month for regular papers and short communications and within two weeks for rapid papers. PCP has established a rapid publication system for articles following final acceptance: a regular paper, short communication or mini review that was finally accepted before the 10th of each month will be published in the issue two months after acceptance and a rapid paper will be published in the next issue. For example, a regular paper, short communication or mini review that was finally accepted before the 10th of January would be published in the March issue, and a rapid paper would be published in the February issue. Last year this review, editing and publication system enabled a rapid paper to be published 41 days after initial submission. Furthermore, we are currently planning to develop a system to publish uncorrected proofs on the web this year. Introduction of this system will enable articles to be published online one month earlier than at present. Supported by improved reviewing and publication systems, the

Journal will be able to publish research results worldwide faster than other journals.

Impact Factor in 2001

ICI has compiled and published the journal impact factors for 2001. The impact factor of our Journal increased to 2.430. The impact factor for 2001 indicates the number of articles published in 2001 that cited articles published in PCP from 1999 to 2000. Consequently, the shift to an online journal format has had little or no immediate effect on this impact factor and is anticipated to have a great influence on the impact factor for 2002, which will be announced next year. ICI also calculated additional indices of publication impact, including the immediacy index, total citations, etc., in addition to the impact factors as shown in Table 1. It is important for us that the immediacy index has increased commensurate with the total number of citations. The immediacy index of an article indicates the number of articles that were cited in the same year as publication. The immediacy index of PCP increased rapidly from 0.250 in 1998 to 0.508 in 2001, showing that articles in PCP were cited more quickly than before. The access count of the online journal exceeded 250,000 in 2001 and has increased in every month of this year. Thus, the promotion of the online version of the Journal steadily improves the impact of PCP.

Commencement of Complimentary Copies to Authors

We have recently begun providing complimentary copies of the journal to authors' colleagues, to allow these researchers to fully comprehend the scope of PCP. This began last August as an initial trial, by which an author can present a complimentary copy of the issue in which his article was published, to foreign researchers. The aim is that foreign researchers will read

Table 1 Impact factor and other indices for Plant and Cell Physiology (1998–2001)

Year	Impact factor	Total cites	Immed. index	Cited half-life
1998	1.828	4239	0.250	6.9
1999	2.259	4465	0.324	6.9
2000	2.311	4694	0.441	6.7
2001	2.430	5086	0.508	6.8

Table 2 Contents of Plant and Cell Physiology (2000–2002)

Year	Numbers	Total pages	Rapid	Mini-review	Regular	Short	Total papers
2000	12	1406	6	9	136	28	179
2001	12	1402	14	7	132	26	179
2002	12	1587	17	9	136	24	186

PCP first hand and better understand its scope. This project is aimed at improving the internationalization of PCP.

Table 2 summarizes the contents of PCP from 2000 to 2002. Rapid papers have also increased in 2002. Thanks to Dr. Kazuhiko Nishitani, a member of the Editorial Board, for a new editorial project, a special feature of four mini reviews dealing with the cell wall, which was published in the December issue. We intend to continue to promote this feature of mini reviews throughout the upcoming year, in addition to the rapid papers that have been our main emphasis to date. We, the Editorial Board, do our best to ensure the growth of Plant and Cell Physiology as an attractive scientific journal; therefore, we encourage you continue supporting and cooperating with PCP.