

***Proceedings B*: welcoming outstanding research of broad interest in all aspects of organismal biology**

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Editorial

Proceedings B: welcoming outstanding research of broad interest in all aspects of organismal biology

Time is flying at *Proceedings B*, at least for me, having now come to the end of my third year as editor-in-chief. Although the day-to-day procedures are now familiar, the challenges remain much the same: principally to try and seek out fascinating and important papers throughout the range of biology. Last year, 2011, was another great year for the journal. Submissions continued at a very high level and for the first time, the journal's Impact Factor went above 5, reaching 5.064.

We have maintained our strength in core areas such as ecology, evolution and behaviour, while at the same time increasing the proportion of content in other areas such as environmental science and health and disease. Encouragingly, there is also now a much greater international spread of authors, with an increased proportion coming from the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and Asia.

The journal's rejection rate is now higher than ever, as we have had to become increasingly selective, and search for the most outstanding contributions. While this is a sign of 'good health', it is an unfortunate corollary that we increasingly have to turn away some very good papers that just fail to compete for space in the journal. Part of the attraction of the journal is the rapid turnaround times that we can achieve. This has improved during the past year with receipt to acceptance now at an average of 30 days (34 days in 2010) and receipt to online publication at an average of 63 days (66 days in 2010). As always, this is only achievable with the support of our excellent Editorial Board and the wonderful backup we all receive from the Royal Society Publishing team.

There have been many research highlights appearing in the journal during the past year, and here are just a few of them. We published our first special feature, 'Information processing in miniature brains', guest edited by Associate Editor Lars Chittka [1], which covered a fascinating array of topics, including spatial memory, colour vision, attention, memory dynamics and sleep. Other highlights include papers such as 'Vertical transmission of learned signatures in a wild parrot' [2], 'Expansion of mass-flowering crops leads to transient pollinator dilution and reduced wild plant pollination' [3] and 'Subretinal electronic chips allow blind patients to read letters and combine them to words' [4], which together capture the huge diversity of subjects that *Proceedings B* covers, something that our readers often compliment us on.

As always, our reviews are a key and an important feature of the journal and I would like to thank our Reviews Editor, Mike Siva-Jothy, for his continued dedication. Some examples from 2011 are the recent Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution review, 'Adaptation and habitat selection in the evolutionary process' [5], and the reviews by Alexander Badyaev [6], Edward Davis *et al.* [7] and that of Jiri Hulcr & Robert Dunn [8].

Proceedings B is widely recognized for its focus on evolutionary biology, ecology and behaviour, but as always, we remain keen to attract papers of broad interest across the whole spectrum of biology. My fellow Editors and I will endeavour to ensure 2012 is an even better year for the journal and we look forward to receiving and reading your most outstanding contributions.

Michael P. Hassell
Editor-in-chief

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