

***Behavioral Ecology* - Report from the Editor-in-Chief**

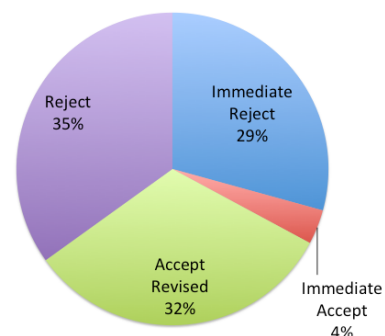
This is my first report as Editor-in-Chief for *Behavioral Ecology*, having taken over from Mark Elgar in January 2012. Having been appointed to the position of Editor-in-Chief, Mark and I instigated a gradual handover of responsibilities, with me serving as an Editor from September 2011 and shadowing Mark until the handover in January. This has facilitated a smooth transition, and I am extremely grateful to Mark for his continued assistance over the first 6 months of my tenure. I would also take this opportunity of thanking Mark on behalf of the ISBE and Oxford University Press for his services to the journal since its very first issue in 1990.

Editorial Board

There have been a number of additional changes to the Editorial team. A number of our Editors have finished their terms of office over the last two years, including Debera Gordon (2011), Michaela Hau (2012), Iain Couzin (2011), Daiqin Li (2012), Rob Brooks (2012), and Hans Hoffman (2012). I would like to formally thank each of these individuals for their hard work and dedication to the journal. Sue Healy also completed her term as Editor, and generously agreed to replace Rob Brooks as our new Forum Editor. In addition we have 6 new Editors, Anna Dornhaus, Paco Garcia-Gonzalez, Shinichi Nakagawa, Alison Bell, Wolfgang Forstmeier, and Alexi Maklakov. I am extremely grateful to these individuals for agreeing to offer their time and expertise to build upon the strength of our journal over the next few years. Mark Blows, Becky Kilner, Lotta Kvarnemo, Jutta Schneider and Bill Sutherland all finished terms on the Editorial Board in 2010, and were replaced by Jens Krause, Bruce Lyon, I-Min Tso, Nina Wedell, and Andy Zinc. Our editorial structure thus affords a broad area of expertise in behavioural ecology research.

Manuscript Submissions, Decisions, and production

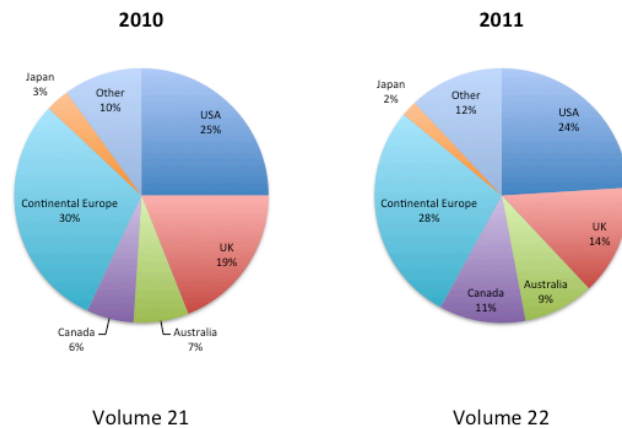
Over the period August 2010 - July 2012, *Behavioral Ecology* received 1,706 Original Articles, and Invited 26 Reviews and associated Commentaries, and 28 Ideas. Over the same period, decisions were made on 1117 submissions. Of these 64% were rejected (29% without review) and 36% were accepted for publication. This is broadly in line with the previous reporting period (2008-2010: 67% rejected (29% without review) and 32% accepted).



The mean time for a decision to be made was 43 ± 4 days. The time from decision to publication in advance of print remains under 4 weeks.

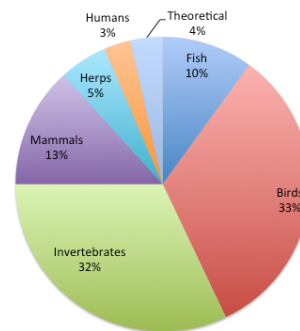
Published Volumes

Volumes 21 and 22 of *Behavioral Ecology* appeared in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Volume 21 comprised a total of 1379 pages with 178 original articles, 2 Invited Reviews and 10 Invited Ideas. Volume 22 comprised a total of 1374 pages with 162 original articles, 6 Invited Reviews with associated Commentaries, and 4 Invited Ideas. Collectively, at the end of July 2012 these articles had been cited a total of 1334 with an H index of 12, that is 12 papers being cited 12 or more times.



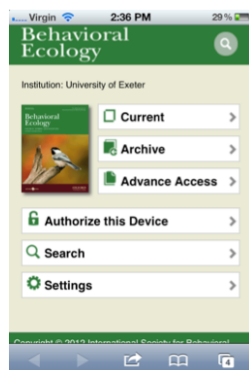
Published authors came from 38 countries, with continental Europe, the USA and the UK being the largest represented groups.

Published papers covered a broad range of subjects within the journals remit, and described work on broad range of taxonomic groups, with invertebrates (largely insects) and birds being the most studied taxa.



The Electronic Journal

The home page has attracted between 20,000 and 40,000 hits per quarter, with downloads of full text HTML and pdfs in the region of 15,000 to 30,000 per quarter.

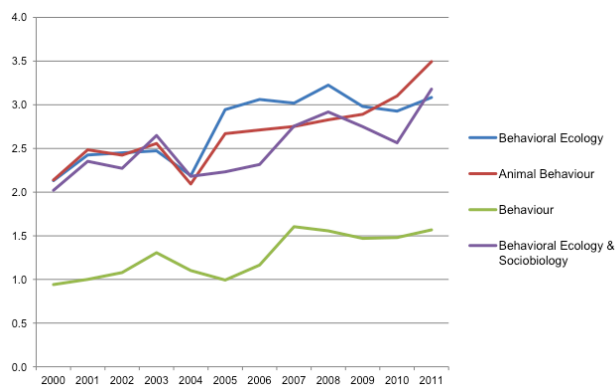


Behavioral Ecology went mobile in 2010, and some of you will have noticed the addition of a QR code to the back cover. The code can be scanned from a smart phone or tablet, which then takes you directly to the mobile journal, which can be browsed, abstracts accessed, pdfs downloaded, or e-mailed to users or their contacts. Uptake of this service is increasing rapidly.



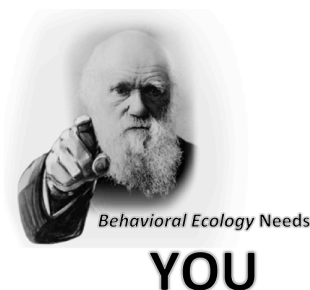
Journal Impact

The ISI Impact Factor for *Behavioral Ecology* rose from 2.926 in 2010 to 3.083 in 2011 and is currently ranked 18/47 in Behavioral Sciences, 36/131 in Ecology, and 10/146 in Zoology. Our Impact Factor is broadly similar to our closest competitors *Animal Behaviour* (3.493) and *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology* (3.179).



Nonetheless it clear that our IF has lost ground over the past few years, relative to our competitors. The impact factor of a journal depends on the numbers of citations attracted by the papers it published in the preceding 2 year period, divided by the total number of citable papers in that period. For the 2011 IF some 16% of papers remain uncited. In order to raise our impact, I and my editors will be working to identify submissions that are unlikely to be cited and to reject them. Our Forum section is now well established and our invited reviews should contribute to a significant increase in our 2012 ISI Impact factor. We are working hard on promoting our research via new initiatives in publishing and marketing. For example from volume 23 we will highlight one article per issue as "Editor's Choice", making these articles free to view. We will also target newsworthy articles via OUP's social media hub, OUPblog. However, neither the Editors nor OUP can raise the IF of *Behavioral Ecology* alone.

We need you, our membership, to send us your very best work, those papers that will attract the high numbers of citations necessary to raise our journals impact. *Behavioral Ecology* is your society's journal, and should be your journal of choice for any manuscripts describing evolutionary and ecological studies of behavior. One of my aims as the new Editor-in-Chief is to overhaul our Editorial Board, and to initiate new editorial procedures that will reduce decision times, and provide a more efficient and rapid service for authors, making *Behavioral Ecology* an attractive choice for speedy and high profile publication.



In closing I would like to take this opportunity of extending the Society's sincere thanks to Cathy Kennedy, the Publishing Manager at OUP who has been responsible for *Behavioral Ecology* for more than 8 years. Being a behavioural

ecologist herself, over the years Cathy has contributed immensely to the development and success of our journal. Sadly for us, Cathy is retiring from OUP, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Leigh W. Simmons

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