

EDITORIAL

Introducing Aquatic Biology

Otto Kinne^{1,*}, Howard I. Browman^{1,2}, Matthias Seaman¹

¹Inter-Research Science Center, Nordbunte 23, 21385 Oldendorf/Luhe, Germany

²Institute of Marine Research, Austevoll Research Station, 5392 Storebø, Norway

The Inter-Research Science Center (IR) journals *Marine Ecology Progress Series* (MEPS) and *Aquatic Microbial Ecology* (AME) have been receiving increasing numbers of high-quality manuscripts that are principally biological, rather than ecological. With regret, we have had to turn these submissions away. Also, leading limnologists have for many years suggested that IR should provide an outlet for top quality articles on freshwater biology and ecology. *Aquatic Biology* (AB) fills these gaps.

Multidisciplinary and international, AB will be developed and tailored in accordance with the needs and interests of the scientific community, acting as a bridge between researchers working on all aquatic eco-domains (see Stergiou & Browman 2005). The scope of AB complements that of MEPS and AME. Manuscripts that are only peripherally related to ecological mechanisms and processes should be directed to AB, rather than to MEPS or AME.

The editorial policies and procedures of IR journals—including AB—conform to the recommendations of the Council of Science Editors (CSE 2006). Submitted manuscripts are pre-screened by the Editors-in-Chief and by Contributing (subject) Editors (CE). Although all manuscripts must be submitted to the journal's editorial office, authors are encouraged to identify a CE for the peer review of their submission. In cases of poor quality or topical unsuitability, editors may return manuscripts without review.

AB publishes only high quality articles. The initial rejection rate for submissions has been approximately 60%, but IR journals have no fixed rejection rate—the number of pages that we publish is adjusted annually based upon the number of articles that our quality controllers decide are of a high enough standard. This allows our editors to make decisions on a case-by-case basis, without pressure to adjust rejection rates to a fixed number of pages. We solicit 3 to 4 evaluations of

every manuscript. Neff & Olden (2006) concluded that the use of dual editorial pre-screening, and 3 to 4 evaluations, results in the highest possible standard of content quality control (see also Kinne 1988, 2004, Riisgård 2000, 2003, Browman & Kirby 2004).

Produced by the MEPS/AME team, and with an identical format, AB features the same leading standards as all IR journals. Peer review is managed using an online system. We strive to limit the duration of initial review to 8 weeks. AB volumes are 'built' online: articles appear as soon as the presentation of their contents and the layout have been approved by the author(s). Average time between final acceptance and online publication is about 20 days. IR encourages and facilitates the incorporation of supplementary online material (including videos) if this optimizes the presentation of the research results.

We are confident that AB will quickly become a global leader among aquatic science journals.

LITERATURE CITED

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