

EDITORIAL OECOLOGIA AUSTRALIS 2016

Beginning in 2016, *Oecologia Australis* [OA] is going through several changes. We have a new Editor-in-chief and several new assistant editors. OA system and website will be updated in May, eliminating occasional “bugs” authors have faced during submission; we have also established new goals, including the reduction of the average time for manuscript evaluations. OA guidelines were updated in August last year and now authors can submit manuscripts following a simplified format.

We have four issues scheduled for 2016. This issue is the first of the year and compiles spontaneous submissions. In June we will launch a special issue on High Altitude Grasslands (“*Campos de Altitude*”) and in the second semester, an additional issue of spontaneous submission as well as a special issue on Behaviour Ecology will be launched. For next year, there will be two issues of spontaneous submissions and two special issues titled “*Environmental impacts: case studies in South America*” and “*Ecology of Parasites and Vectors*”, for which invited editors were already assigned.

One of the main challenges faced by editors of scientific journals concerns finding referees willing to review scientific manuscripts in a timely manner. We are tackling this problem by keeping track of “good referees” and frequently reminding reviewers of their deadlines. The new OA team is aware of its responsibilities and is willing to prioritize the journal. We therefore expect to effectively provide a high quality, first evaluation of manuscripts within 2-3 months after initial submission.

Oecologia Australis publishes reviews, study case manuscripts, short communications and opinions in Portuguese, Spanish or English, at no cost for authors. Topics of interest include:

- Organismal ecology (ecophysiology, animal behaviour, natural history, evolutionary biology of organisms);
- Population ecology;
- Community ecology;
- Macroecology;
- Biogeography;
- Ecosystem ecology;
- Limnology;
- Oceanography;
- Conservation biology;
- Landscape ecology;
- Species Management;
- Environmental education;
- Environmental management.

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