



Editorial

PEER REVIEW ISSUES AND ABSTRACTING/INDEXING SERVICES

The year 2013 has been a year with “Ups and Downs” for **Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems (TSA)**. We would like to remark only two of them, which have the potential to make a difference in the journal performance.

On the down side, we have been dealing with the difficulties to obtain peer reviews on time and quantity (at least two). An issue which has caused delays assigning manuscripts to potential reviewers (many of them already saturated) and which results in longer than desired submission to decision times. We are aware that this is a problem faced by many journals worldwide. Either new or well established journals, we are all facing similar problems requesting scientist to perform the service of peer review. This problem is such, that some initiatives have been launched to address this issue with the aim to facilitate both the peer reviewing process and the quality of the scientific information published in journals. Those interested on this topic can easily find news, blogs, etc., related to this matter.

What are we doing? To start with, we have established the policy to reward our reviewers with a “credit” towards article processing fees. Those reviewers achieving five reviews can publish a paper free of charge. We hope this offer will encourage potential reviewers to accept the review requests. As a non-for profit organization and due to administrative limitations within our institution we cannot afford direct payments to be made to our reviewers.

In addition, we are also adhering to those initiatives aimed to speed the peer review while maintaining the quality of this process. Thus, TSA will be accepting the review reports from at least two novel services:

Peerage of Science© (www.peerageofscience.org) is a peer review service which does not charge authors a fee. **Rubriq**© (www.rubriq.com a division of Research Square©) is a company which provide peer reviewing service charging the authors a fee. Interested authors can explore the information provided by both companies in their home pages.

Authors using the above mentioned services can provide TSA with the review reports and relevant information obtained from the review (i.e. reviewer comments, original and corrected manuscript versions, if requested by editor) with the net result of speeding the publication process. The author will submit the manuscript using our editorial management platform together with the additional information files (please make a note declaring which service was used).

The standard peer review process will still be in place for all those manuscripts/authirs which do not use any of the systems described above. In addition, we kindly request to all the researchers registered as reviewers, please make sure **[TSA]** label is not classified as spam to facilitate communication with the journal system. Please update your profile, if you have not done it yet, in order to facilitate assigning you only papers relevant to your expertise. Combining these initiatives and the willingness of reviewers to accept and perform timely reviews, we expect to improve the time from submission to decision.

On the bright side, TSA has achieved its first **SJR report** from **Scimago**© with data from **Scopus**™ which can be consulted and accessed from the journal pages. Following the link (clicking the chart) will take you to the detailed information provided by **Scimago lab**© where you can evaluate and compare the journal performance based on various metrics produced by Scimago©. The current result is the two year report, which is equivalent to the Journal Impact Factor™ (Thomson Reuters) metric. We do not want to compare TSA performance with similar Mexican journals. However, users can perform the comparison by themselves using the Scimago lab© tools provided in their web page.

It was also a pleasant notice to have TSA added and listed in the **Master Journal List**™ (Thomson Reuters) readers can search the journal and find the listing at <http://science.thomsonreuters.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jlresults.cgi?PC=MASTER&Full=tropical%20and%20subtropical%20agroecosystems> full journal name is suggested to perform the query. We hope to have TSA fully included in Thomson Reuters databases in the short-medium term.

More over during December 2013, we also received positive news, TSA will now be included in **Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS**®), a not-for-profit division of **The American Chemical Society**, with retro indexing starting with volume 16 (2013).

In summary, TSA is now indexed by all major database services (full list can be obtained in the journal homepage or the most recent “cover” file) giving truly international exposure to articles published within this journal.

Expecting that the year 2014 should bring further improvements to TSA performance, we humbly ask readers, authors and reviewers to help us achieve such goals. Readers can promoted and freely provide copies of those articles they find useful as teaching materials. Authors are welcome to use and include data from TSA in all their publication by only giving proper acknowledgment to the original source. It is worth to remind that papers published in TSA are under a Creative Commons Attribution license (CC) to encourage use and dissemination of information.

Finally, we would like to give our most sincere thanks [Gracias (in Spanish)] to all the researchers trusting in Tropical and Subtropical Agroecosystems.

Carlos A. Sandoval-Castro

TSA Editor

Campus de Ciencias Biologicas y Agropecuarias

Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán

México

Email: Carlos.sandoval@uady.mx