

EDITORIAL: MAJOR CHANGES TO THE *EDINBURGH JOURNAL OF BOTANY*

It is a great honour to be taking over as Editor-in-Chief of the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* (EJB) from Dr Neil Bell, who stepped down at the end of 2020. For three years Neil has driven EJB forwards, and through his hard work, the journal has maintained its impressive international reputation.

During its 120-year history the journal has gone through many changes. Starting as *Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh*, it changed its name in 1990 to the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany, an international journal of plant systematics and biodiversity*, to reflect its scope and international distribution. This year will see it go through another transformation, and I feel privileged to be at the helm during the development, coordination and implementation of many of these changes.

The journal has now moved to be available only online, using the Diamond Open Access model supported by the University of Edinburgh's journal-hosting service. It will continue to publish high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific papers on plant systematics and biodiversity without cost to authors, but they will now be free to access online at <https://journals.rbge.org.uk/ejb>. These changes have also provided an opportunity to move EJB to an online submission process and to update and refresh its branding and style, and its editorial committees. Some changes are in response to the needs of online-only publication, whereas others aim either to increase accessibility and diversity or to speed up the review, editing and publication process.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, with many people in lockdown, the need to access information online is greater than ever. I hope that the removal of a paywall for EJB content will help make world-class biodiversity information available to a wider range of readers, including independent researchers and, especially, researchers from lower income countries.

Social media will become a more important aspect of the journal, and I encourage all readers and authors to follow us on Twitter @EJBotany and to register with EJB to receive automated updates.

In the coming years, I hope to introduce new functionality and content to our journal-hosting page and to encourage more opinion pieces and invited editorial comment, particularly on taxonomic topics and the addressing of the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency. I welcome suggestions on such matters.

This is an exciting time for EJB, and I hope that you will find the changes being made, and the content published, useful. If you do choose to publish with the journal, I look forward to working with you to bring the fruits of your research to the attention of the research and conservation community and the public in general.