

EDITORIAL: DIGITAL ARCHIVE OF 125 YEARS' WORTH OF JOURNAL CONTENT NOW FREELY AVAILABLE

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* and its forerunner, *Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*. The journal was established in 1900 by the Garden's then Regius Keeper (Director), Sir Isaac Bayley Balfour, with the purpose of publishing 'reports upon the progress of the Garden, records of scientific investigations carried on in the Garden, and notices of points of interest relating to plant-life which come under the observation of the staff'. The *Notes* also published papers by international scientists and is perhaps best known for the publication of species new to science and research series such as *Materials for a Flora of Turkey*, *Studies in the Flora of Arabia* and *Notes relating to the Flora of Bhutan*. In May 1990, the journal changed its name to the *Edinburgh Journal of Botany*, and it continues to publish peer-reviewed scientific papers covering plant and fungal systematics and biodiversity.

When taking over as Editor-in-Chief in the autumn of 2020, my priority was to switch production of the journal to an online-only Diamond Open Access model, free from charges for authors and readers, and managed by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, as the journal's publisher. One part of this initiative was to make past volumes of the journal freely available online. The first phase of this task was completed with the launch of the new-look and open-access journal in 2020, when 30 years' worth of scientific papers published under the name *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* (from volume 47 to the present day) were made available at <https://journals.rbge.org.uk/ejb>. This provided access to 394 articles and the protologues of 2103 species new to science.

To mark the journal's 125th anniversary, I am happy to announce that the second and final phase is now complete, and that the remaining 90 years' worth of journal content (volumes 1–46), published under the name *Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden*, are also now available, at <https://journals.rbge.org.uk/notes>. This makes available a further 1437 articles, including 5578 protologues of species new to science.

At a time when biodiversity is under increasing threat, making this scientific research freely available is an important step not only in helping accelerate research into our understanding of plant diversity, but also in providing the resources needed so that all researchers, irrespective of the part of the world in which they are based, can play their part in documenting and understanding the amazing plant diversity on planet Earth.

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1 OCTOBER 2025