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**Key words:** Editors,Editorial Board, Subject Editor, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief, Diversity, Global South, Ecology, Evolution, Environmental Biology, peer review

**Geographic Coverage:** N/A

**Temporal Coverage:**

Begin: 1985-01-01

End: 2014-12-01

**Exceptions:** as noted in the individual data files

**Project Info:** The scholars comprising journal editorial boards play a critical role in defining the trajectory of knowledge in their field. Nevertheless, studies of editorial board composition remain rare, especially those focusing on journals publishing research in the increasingly globalized fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Using metrics for quantifying the diversity of ecological communities, we quantified international representation on the 1985-2014 editorial boards of twenty-four environmental biology journals. The results of our analyses using these data resulted in the following paper:

Johanna Espin, Sebastian Palmas, Farah Carrasco-Rueda, Kristina Riemer, Pablo E. Allen, Nathan Berkebile, Kirsten A. Hecht, Kay Kastner-Wilcox, Mauricio M. Núñez-Regueiro, Candice Prince, Constanza Rios, Erica Ross, Bhagatveer Sangha, Tia Tyler, Judit Ungvari-Martin, Mariana Villegas, Tara T. Cataldo, and Emilio M. Bruna. A persistent lack of international representation on editorial boards in environmental biology. *Plos Biology.*

The version of the R code to conduct the analyses and generate the figures in the paper is at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1067800

Subsequent versions of this code are available for use and improvement at https://github.com/embruna/Espin\_etal\_Editors

This research and the resulting paper were part of a Workshop in Scientific Publishing taught in Fall Semester 2017 by Emilio M. Bruna at the University of Florida.

**Title**: Global distribution of the editorial board members of 24 environmental biology journals from 1985-2014.

**Funding**: UF Center for Latin American Studies Faculty Research Award to Emilio Bruna

**Files:** Espin\_etal\_data\_v1.csv

**Description:** Data on the country of institutional affiliation of the editorial board members of 24 scientific journals from 1985-2014,

**Methods:** These data were gathered from 24 journals from environmental biology, natural resource management, and plant sciences: Agronomy Journal, American Journal of Botany, American Naturalist, Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, & Systematics, Biological Conservation, Biotropica, Conservation Biology, Ecography, Ecology, Evolution, Forest Ecology and Management, Functional Ecology, Journal of Animal Ecology, Journal of Applied Ecology, Journal of Biogeography, Journal of Ecology, Journal of Tropical Ecology, Journal of Zoology, Landscape Ecology, New Phytologist, N. Am. J. of Fisheries Management, Oecologia, Oikos, Plant Ecology.

For each journal, we selected the first issue of each year published and recorded the names and editorial positions of all editorial board members. Journals often have different titles for positions with similar editorial responsibilities, these titles frequently change over time, and that not all journals had all positions throughout the study. We therefore assigned editorial board members to the following categories based on their responsibilities:

(1) Editor-in-Chief (EIC). The EIC oversees the journal and is ultimately responsible for editorial policy, standards, and practice, including appointing members of the Editorial Board.

(2) Associate Editors (AE). The AE assists the EIC with their responsibilities and may take the lead on some aspects of journal administration; in some cases they might oversee all submissions in a particular subject area or from a geographic region. Not all journals have AEs, while those that do may vary in the length of time they have had them.

(3) Subject Editors (SE). The SEs, also commonly referred to as Handling Editors, oversee the process of manuscript review. For some journals they make final decisions on manuscripts after considering reviewer feedback (e.g., *Ecology*) while for others they provide recommendations based on which EICs or AEs make final decisions (e.g., *Biotropica*). They also provide formal or informal feedback to the EICs/AEs on journal policy and administration. They are referred to collectively by a variety of titles, including Board of Editors (*Ecology, Biological Conservation*) and the Editorial Committee (*Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematic, American Journal of Botany*). Note that two journals – the *American Journal of Botany* and *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* – used the title of “Associate Editor” for members of their Editorial Board with the responsibilities of SEs; we therefore included them in this category in our analyses.

(4) Special Topics Editors (Special): Many journals have someone tasked with organizing special sections, reviewing data archives, soliciting reviews of recently published books of interest to the journal’s readers, etc. (e.g., Biological Florida Editors for the *Journal of Ecology*; Concept Section, Data Archive, Special Features, and Invited Papers Editors for *Ecology*). These were recorded as “Special” unless the person was also an SE, AE, or EIC, in which case the duties were recorded in the “notes” column.

We excluded from our data collection production staff (e.g., production editors, managing editors, editorial assistants) and the American Journal of Botany’s “Section Representatives”, which were used to suggest reviewers and guide journal direction, but did not make editorial decisions on individual manuscripts (Dr. Judith E. Skog, pers. comm., 14 March 2014).

**Column Headings:**

JOURNAL: The code used to identify each scientific journal. The codes were: AREES: Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics, BITR: Biotropica, AGRONOMY: Agronomy Journal, NAJFM: North American Journal of Fisheries Management, AJB: American Journal of Botany, CONBIO: Conservation Biology, BIOCON: Biological Conservation, ECOLOGY: Ecology, JECOL: Journal of Ecology, JTE: Journal of Tropical Ecology, AMNAT: American Naturalist, JBIOG: Journal of Biogoegraphy, ECOGRAPHY: Ecography, EVOL: Evolution, FEM: Forest Ecology and Management, FUNECOL: Functional Ecology, JANE: Journal of Animal Ecology, JAPE: Journal of Applied Ecology, JZOOL: Journal of Zoology, LECO: Landscape Ecology, OECOL: Oecologia, OIKOS: Oikos, PLANTECOL: Plant Ecology, NEWPHYT: New Phytiologist

YEAR: Year an Editor served on an editorial board.

VOLUME: Volume of the journal for which an editor served.

ISSUE: Issue of the journal for which an editor served.

TITLE: The title each editor had as listed in the journal, could include multiple titles (e.g., Subject Editor and Book Reviews Editor).

FIRST\_NAME: The first name of the editorial board member.

MIDDLE\_NAME: The middle name of the editorial board member.

LAST\_NAME: The last name of the editorial board member. We separated all multiple last names with a hyphen (e.g., Williams-Guillen, Olsvig-Whittaker), while prefixes were combined with the last name (e.g., Van Der Maarel: VanDerMaarel, den Boer: denBoer).

COUNTRY: The country in which an editor’s primary institution was based.

CATEGORY: We categorized each board member as a Subject Editor (SE), Associate Editor (AE), Editor-in-Chief (EIC) as described above.

NOTES: Any additional relevant information about the entry. If they had multiple roles on the editorial board (e.g., if an AE was also the Boor Reviews Editor) we noted the role as Book Reviews Editor here.

NAME: The full name of the author (by combining FIRST\_NAME, MIDDLE\_NAME, and LAST\_NAME with one space between each)

editor\_id: a unique id number for each editor in the dataset.

geo.code: the ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 for each country. Note that all countries in the United Kingdom have the same ISO code (GBR), while many territories, protectorates, overseas departments, etc. have their own unique codes (e.g., Puerto Rico: PRI, French Guiana: GUF). Country codes were initially assigned using the “countrycode” library for the R programming language (Vincent Arel-Bundock (2017). countrycode: Convert Country Names and Country Codes. R package version 0.19. https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=countrycode), after which we corrected any names for countries no longer in existence or abbreviations not recognized by countrycodes (see associated code archived at Zenodo).

INCOME\_LEVEL: The World Bank’s classification of each country’s per capita Gross National Income (GNI): (1) High income: nonOECD, (2) High income: OECD, (3) Low income, (4) Lower middle income, (5) Upper middle income

REGION: The world region to which the World Bank assigned each country: (1) East Asia & Pacific, (2) Europe & Central Asia, (3) Latin America & Caribbean, (4) Middle East & North Africa, (5) North America, (6) South Asia, (7) Sub-Saharan Africa.