EDITORIAL NOTE

New scientific fields in the Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences

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The Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (AABC) is the only multidisciplinary journal of Brazil that publishes papers in almost any scientific field. From articles monitoring air quality (Ventura et al. 2019), environmental risks caused by pesticides (e.g., Bueno & Cunha 2019), and Kumaraswamy distributions (Cribari-Neto & Santos 2019), to studies on natural compounds that might be used in specific health treatments (e.g., Soares et al. 2019), new fossil occurrences (e.g., Del Fueyo et al. 2019), and articles dealing with various aspects of social sciences (e.g., Braga et al. 2020), making the AABC the only periodical edited in the country with such a broad scope.

Over the years, the number of manuscript submissions has increased at a very high rate, with two areas standing out in the last decade: Agrarian and Biological Sciences (Kellner 2020a, b). The number of manuscripts submitted for Agrarian Sciences increased from 53 in 2011 to 275 in 2016, and to the record-breaking figure of 584 in 2020 (Table I). Biological Sciences, the area that traditionally has the highest submitting rate in the AABC, received 164 manuscripts in 2011, 274 in 2016 and 556 in 2020 (Table I).

Regarding Biological Sciences, there is a general trend towards an increase in absolute terms of submissions. However, compared to other areas of the journal, in the last decade there is a gradual decline in the proportion of submissions concerning this scientific field received by AABC (Table II). This is exactly the opposite of what is observed in Agrarian Sciences, where there has been a constant increase both in absolute numbers and in the proportion of submissions (Table II). Since 2016, the submissions in Agrarian Sciences have rivaled and even supplanted that of Biological Sciences (Table I). The reason for this significant change, which ends up influencing the journal output, seems to be related to the Qualis system, which is fundamental in the assessment of scientific production in Brazil. Despite the efforts to internationalize the AABC, there is still a great predominance of submissions from the country and the influence of *Qualisites* (Kellner 2017) becomes apparent, particularly comparing the development of these two areas in the journal.

In any case, Biological and Agrarian Sciences are responsible for more than half of the articles published by the AABC (Table II). In order to assess the effective contribution of these papers to the journal's Impact Factor, some brief comparisons in relation to the publication considered by the Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate 2020) were made (Kellner 2020a, b), focusing on articles published during 2018 (AABC-90). The results revealed that for the

Table I. Manuscripts submitted, rejected, and published in Biological, Agrarian and Earth Sciences in the last decade in the Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

	BiSci	AgSci	EaSci	AABC – tot*
2011 – sub	164	53	33	317
2011 – rej	108	36	24	202
2011 – pub	28	12	44	112
2012 – sub	159	55	28	301
2012 – rej	112	45	10	196
2012 – pub	50	10	23	104
2013 – sub	197	111	43	470
2013 – rej	113	65	16	264
2013 – pub	75	17	14	140
2014 – sub	304	123	39	641
2014 – rej	187	81	21	391
2014 – pub	82	32	32	175
2015 – sub	355	195	57	827
2015 – rej	277	129	31	590
2015 – pub	77	25	20	185
2016 – sub	274	275	53	830
2016 – rej	194	202	26	581
2016 – pub	91	25	24	200
2017 – sub	293	252	72	950
2017 – rej	192	192	35	639
2017 – pub	95	59	26	250
2018 – sub	397	390	98	1281
2018 – rej	210	264	54	797
2018 – pub	65	122	28	300
2019 – sub	482	485	83	1512
2019 – rej	226	363	55	957
2019 – pub	123	45	35	301
2020 – sub	556	584	112	1880
2020 – rej	374	499	69	1399
2020 – pub	119	76	18	350

Abbreviations: AgSci – Agrarian Sciences, BiSci – Biological Sciences, EaSci – Earth Sciences; pub – published, rej – rejected, sub – submitted, tot – total number. *Excluding editorials and letters. The numbers reflect the manuscripts that were submitted, rejected, and published in the corresponding year.

Table II. Proportions of submitted and published manuscripts in Biological and Agrarian Sciences in relation to the total number of manuscripts submitted and published in the last decade in the Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

Year	BiSci/ AABC Tot* (%)	AgSci/ AABC Tot* (%)	EaSci/ AABC Tot* (%)
2011 – sub	51.74	16.72	10.41
2011 – pub	25.00	10.71	39.29
2012 – sub	52.82	18.27	9.30
2012 – pub	48.77	9.62	22.12
2013 – sub	41.91	23.62	9.15
2013 – pub	53.57	12.14	10.00
2014 – sub	47.43	19.19	6.08
2014 – pub	46.86	18.29	18.29
2015 – sub	42.93	23.58	6.89
2015 – pub	41.62	13.51	10.81
2016 – sub	33.01	33.13	6.39
2016 – pub	45.50	12.50	12.00
2017 – sub	30.84	26.57	7.58
2017 – pub	38.00	23.60	10.40
2018 – sub	30.99	30.44	7.65
2018 – pub	21.67	40.67	9.33
2019 – sub	31.88	32.08	5.49
2019 – pub	40.86	14.95	11.63
2020 – sub	29.57	31.06	5.96
2020 – pub	34.00	21.72	5.14

Abbreviations: AgSci – Agrarian Sciences, BiSci – Biological Sciences, EaSci – Earth Sciences; pub – published, sub – submitted, tot – total number. *Excluding editorials and letters. Proportions based on Table I.

AABC 2019 IF, the actual contribution of both areas was not very impressive (Kellner 2020a, b, c, d). These succinct analyzes also show that better manuscript selection (a topic that triggers heated debates) could increase the journal's overall bibliometric indexes (Kellner 2020d).

Another action that AABC decided to carry out and which was implemented this year (2021), was to divide these two areas. Biological

Sciences was replaced by Cellular and Molecular Biology (CeMoBio), Microbiology (Mcbio), and Ecosystems (Ecosy), while Agrarian Sciences was replaced by Animal Science (AnSci), Crop Science (CrSci), Soil Science (SoiSci), and Forestry Science (FoSci). The main purpose of these changes is to call attention of researchers working in these more specific areas to consider the AABC for the publication of their results.

At the same time and for the same reasons, Earth Sciences were separated into Geosciences (Geosci) and Paleontology (Paleo). The articles from these areas published in the AABC-90 contributed significantly to the AABC 2019 IF (Kellner 2020c) and, by drawing attention to these fields, this journal hopes to obtain more relevant submissions. Despite increasing in total numbers, the submissions in Earth Sciences have been decreasing proportionally in the last decade (Table II). In the coming years, we will see if this strategy will be successful and if it should be applied to other areas as well (e.g., Health Sciences).

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