

Dear members of the SBF/TPP community,

Two years ago, as we started our three-year term as Editors (2012-2014), we detailed our plans for “TPP [to] secure its place among the best plant pathology journals of the world”. Not a modest goal, and maybe it won’t be achieved within this short time frame. Nevertheless, we are glad to see that most of the things we planned have already been implemented in these first two years.

By way of illustration, we have an outstanding editorial board who’s working around the clock – we averaged 45 days for first decisions and 5 months for final decisions in 2013. We are now using a state-of-the-art manuscript handling system, which greatly facilitated the job of authors, reviewers and editors. We also decided that manuscripts should be submitted only in English. Such change did not discourage submission. Actually, they increased 20% during these two years, and we could broaden considerably our network of English-skilled reviewers from all over the world. Therefore, we believe that these changes helped to improve the overall quality of the journal and that it is moving in the right direction.

We updated our plans for this third year and a few other changes will be made. Firstly, TPP will become an online-only journal. This decision was made by the Editorial Committee together with the SBF Board of Directors during the 2013 annual meeting of the SBF, and was motivated by two observations: (i) the printed copy represented approximately 90% of the journal’s costs, and (ii) the vast majority of readers used only the online version, downloading (and sometimes printing) only those papers of direct interest. The move to online-only will thus save precious resources for the society, with absolutely no cost for authors or for the readership at large. In fact, being online-only will bring us advantages such as the publication of high quality color illustrations at no cost, the possibility of adding supplementary materials without storage space limitation, and the reduction in time between acceptance and publication.

Finally, we were excited about the suggestion by the editorial board that TPP should publish “thematic issues” (not as a special, but as a regular issue) with papers dealing with the latest development and key topics of general interest to the field. Authors will be invited to submit manuscripts for these issues, but of course these manuscripts will go through peer review in exactly the same way as regular manuscripts.

We hope that you will continue to support TPP by submitting your best research, just like we, and the whole editorial board, will continue to work hard to make sure that your papers are reviewed as fairly and quickly as possible, are published on time, and are visible to plant pathologists everywhere.

With best regards,

Francisco Murilo Zerbini, Robert W. Barreto, Trazilbo J. de Paula Jr., Emerson M. Del Ponte (Editors)