



## EDITORIAL NOTE

# Publications on COVID-19 at the AABC

ALEXANDER W.A. KELLNER

For some years now, COVID-19 has turned the world upside down (e.g., Kellner 2020a), impacting society in almost all segments, from education (e.g., Pokhrel & Chhetri 2021) and mental health (e.g., Ravens-Sieberer et al. 2022), to matters related to sustainable development (e.g., Wang & Huang 2021) and economy (e.g., Zongyun et al. 2022). While the pandemic is not over, it is increasingly being brought under control as vaccination progresses, with safety and restriction measures gradually being lifted.

Another area that was also tremendously impacted by the pandemic was scientific publications. Side effects ranged from displacing research of other scientific fields (e.g., Riccaboni & Verginer 2022) to severe editorial problems (e.g., Shimray 2022). Here I briefly examine the publications on COVID-19 received by the Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (AABC).

In 2020, a total of 43 manuscripts were received in two distinct categories: articles and letters. Most of the 24 articles were rejected (16), five were published in 2021 and three in 2022 (not analyzed here). Regarding letters, 19 were received, 10 were rejected, eight were published in 2020 and one in 2021 (not considered here). The overall rejection rate of the COVID-19 manuscripts received by the AABC was 60% (67% and 53% regarding articles and letters, respectively). All five articles were recovered by the Journal Citations Reports (JCR) and considered in the recently published Impact Factor (IF) of the AABC (AABC IF-2021). Letters are not normally evaluated by JCR, but surprisingly the letter by Hipólito et al. (2019) was included and received four citations (Journal Citations Reports 2022). In the Web of Science (WoS) database, all publications in a journal are expected to be listed, including letters. Interestingly, Letieri & Furtado (2020) and Mattioli & Crespilho (2020) were not found. Unfortunately, the situation where publications can simply “disappear” seems to be more common than one would expect (e.g., Kellner 2020b), with deleterious effects on a journal’s and researcher’s metrics, something that should be on the minds of the “publishing industry” (Kellner 2020c).

Although the number of published manuscripts on COVID-19 by the AABC are too limited for any detailed analysis, it should be noted that all articles were cited at least once in 2021, with the most cited article receiving 10 citations in JCR (11 in WoS), followed by two with three citations each. A similar pattern was observed regarding letters, with only one without citation in 2021 and the most cited also receiving 10 citations, followed by one with four citations. The five articles published received a total of 19 citations and if only these were considered, the IF of the AABC would be 3.800, well above the AABC IF-2021 (1.811). The six published letters considered in WoS received a total of 21 citations in 2021, corresponding to an IF of 3.500.

The main conclusions of this brief survey are that very few researchers working on COVID-19 considered the AABC to publish their results, but the few accepted publications contributed and raised the AABC IF-2021.

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### ALEXANDER W.A. KELLNER

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7174-9447>

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Museu Nacional, Laboratório de Sistemática e Tafonomia de Vertebrados Fósseis, Departamento de Geologia e Paleontologia, Quinta da Boa Vista, s/n, São Cristóvão, 20940-040 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

E-mail: [kellner@mn.ufrj.br](mailto:kellner@mn.ufrj.br)

