

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This issue completes six years of publication of *Seed Science Research*. From its inception the journal has built a respected reputation among seed scientists for the range and quality of its research papers and review articles in seed physiology, biochemistry and more recently, ecology. The journal does have a special role to play, for, although it has strong competitors, no other journal is devoted entirely to basic scientific research on seeds and no other journal can give such complete commitment to seed science, providing a forum where all disciplinary approaches to seeds can meet. I view *Seed Science Research* as the journal of the international seed community but, as with any young journal, there are obstacles to overcome. Prime among these is the significance attached to "impact rating", used in many countries as an indicator of the value of a research paper — is it in a journal with a high impact factor? Of course, we are all aware of the potential dangers of such a procedure but unfortunately it can be decisive in determining where a researcher chooses to send his or her paper. The trend must be resisted if specialized journals such as ours are to gain strength and fulfil their role. We trust in our contributors' and readers' continued support so that *Seed Science Research* can maintain its place as the leading outlet for research in basic aspects of seed biology.

As well as publishing original papers and review articles the journal is actively seeking opportunities to publish special issues and supplements. These fulfil the dual functions of contributing to the existing knowledge and providing an overview of the subject area. It is hoped that 1997 will see a number of interesting developments. If you have material which might be suited to a supplement then please contact me to discuss your proposal. In most instances supplements and special issues are supplied to all subscribers at no additional cost.

In the past year, as always, we have received help from many individuals, especially the reviewers without whom no journal can function. My thanks go to them for giving of their valuable time in carrying out this task and to the production staff who ensure that things run as smoothly as possible.

Michael Black

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