

## OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS, THE NEW AGE FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

It is with great pleasure that we bring to you the new version of the journal *Biociências*, published by EDIPUCRS (Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil). After almost a year of intense work, the editorial team was able to carry out the technical editing of the first full online version of the *Biociências*. We selected most of the articles focused on interdisciplinary approach to a wide spectrum of interests in the field of Biosciences for this fifteenth volume. All articles were submitted to the peer review process, to ensure the quality control of published information.

*Biociências* is a high quality journal devoted to publishing original research articles, scientific notes and reviews focused on the biosciences. As we are entering a new era of scientific publications, with open access journals, the integrative and interdisciplinary research in biosciences is being collectively pursued and practiced by researchers, which nourishes a new environment for publications. Following this new tendency of open access journals, our journal starts this new phase exclusively with online version. However, the same care with peer review process was kept on this new version. *Biociências* has gained a longstanding national reputation for its excellent standards and high-quality publications. This new editorial team would like to thank to all members of the former editorial team for their endless efforts to select nice articles to be published. It is with the same objectives that this new editorial team took over. From now on all volumes of *Biociências* will be freely accessible via the Internet for immediate world-wide, open access to the full text of the articles at no cost. This initiative has successfully been applied to international journals, such as BMC journals (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/browse/journals/>). The scientific articles in all BMC journals published by BioMed Central are open access. These journals are immediately and permanently available online free of charge. Although free of charge for the reader, BioMed Central charges authors, once their manuscripts have been accepted for publication. Nevertheless, most of the BioMed Central's journals frequently waive charges for authors from developing countries.

The journal *Biociências*, as an open access journal, allows that all interested public can read, download and print the articles free of charge and there is no cost for the authors. Furthermore, the authors may submit their articles directly on the *Biociências* site at <http://revistaseletronicas.pucrs.br/fabio/ojs/index.php/fabio>. Figure 1 shows the homepage of the journal *Biociências*. This new editorial system helps editors manage submissions as well as track and report the peer review process. It is an Internet-based service, therefore it may be accessed from any computer on the Internet and works on multiple operating systems. Of course, as always happens when a new technology emerges, there are drawbacks, especially during the transition phase. Many articles were under peer review process, when we started the online editorial process. This generated delay in the launch of the present volume of *Biociências*. I apologize for this delay, and we expect that next volumes will be published faster. The key is that the benefits of this new editorial process outweigh the drawbacks.

When the World Wide Web (WWW) started in 1990, it was clear that a new tool for scientific publications were under development. WWW was created by Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau, both from a research laboratory, the CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. The WWW is a system of interlinked, hypertext documents, which may be accessed via the internet. This system of interlinked documents facilitates the integration and the recovery of documents. Open access journals make available their articles, most of the times as PDF (Portable Document Format) or HTML (HyperText Markup Language) files, which can be easily accessed. Furthermore, open access journals open the possibility of integration, adding links to the text. Most recently, a new project focused on the open-access journals proposed to create short videos linked to the articles, called pubcasts. Pubcasts are 5-10 minute video clips which are integrated with the contents of the open access paper. These videos explain details of the research described in the published article, which brings new possibilities for this kind of publications. Examples of these pubcasts may be seen at <http://www.scivee.tv/node/53>.

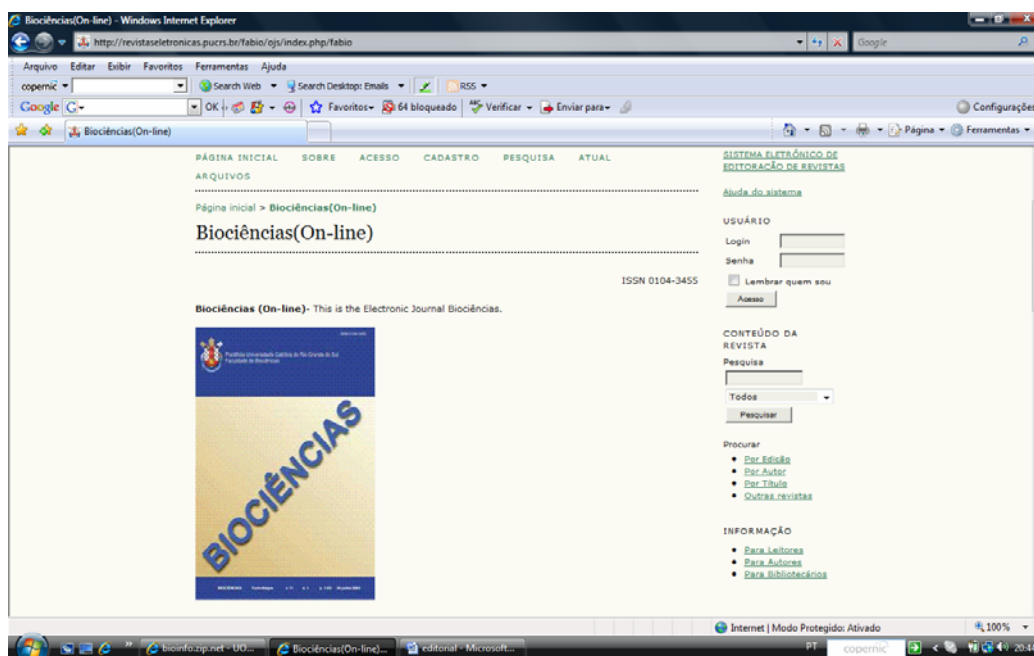


Figure 1. Journal home page.

Since we are starting new age, we would like to share with scientific community our goals. We intend to reach wider public and to stimulate new groups of authors to consider Biociências as your journal for publication of solid and sound work, not only focused on zoology and botany, but also on subjects such as genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, cell biology and others in the field of biosciences. Now all editorial process can be performed online, this includes author's submission, reviewing process, and publication.

In this first issue entirely online we have a wide spectrum of articles describing themes from zoology to microbiology. We have an article describing new information about recent described species of snake and also about the toxicological effects of the seed extracts from Abere. Abere is a Yoruba name for *Hunteria umbellata* seed. This plant grows well in West Africa and it belongs to the family Apocynaceae. We have also a scientific article describing the histological characteristics and composition of the closer muscle fibers of *Cyrtograpsus angulatus*, only to mention few. A total of 13 full research papers and 2 scientific notes, besides this editorial make up the present edition. Several scientific topics are present in this issue, which is a tradition of Biociências, since its first issue 15 years ago.



Figure 2. Page of DOAJ showing information about the journal Biociências.

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This new version of the Biociências brings new challenges, but also many rewards, and I hope that each new edition will be better than the previous one. Biociências is already indexed at the Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) (<http://www.doaj.org/>). This directory intends to cover full text, quality controlled scientific journals. Figure 2 shows the entry for the journal Biociências at DOAJ. Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the former director of the Faculty of Biosciences at PUCRS, Prof. Emilio Jeckel, for the invitation to be editor-in-chief of the Biociências. I would like to thank my distinguished colleagues of the editorial team for their help and encouragement, and also the reviewers and the authors for their efforts to guarantee the best quality of the articles published in the journal Biociências.

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