
Guest Editorial

Publication and Citation Trends in the *International Journal of Primatology*: 1980–2003

The present volume of the *International Journal of Primatology* is a milestone; it is the twenty-fifth since the journal's inauguration. To commemorate the occasion, I comment on the origin, aims, and publication trends of IJP between 1980 and 2003. A remarkable consistency of vision and diversity is evident in the 934 published articles.

Proposals to create the *International Journal of Primatology* were made in 1976 during the 6th Congress of the International Primatological Society in Cambridge, England. The objectives were: (1) to meet demand for an additional refereed journal devoted to basic primatology; and, (2) to create an official vehicle for the International Primatological Society. A third explicit aim was the promotion of primate conservation (Doyle and Cartmill, 1980). In this spirit, IJP has enjoyed considerable success (Fig. 1). Since 1980, the journal has grown steadily; expanding from four issues a year to six in 1984, and increasing page allocations in 1993 and 1995. Volume 24 is the largest to date, exceeding 1,350 pages.

In 1989, founding editors Gerald A. Doyle and Matt Cartmill entrusted IJP editorship to Russell H. Tuttle. He reiterated the journal's commitment to "sharing knowledge about all aspects of primate biology and the conservation of primates and their habitats" (Tuttle, 1989:267). Tuttle emphasized the importance of studying free-ranging primates and encouraged submissions on diverse aspects of primatology, including systematics, comparative psychology, paleobiology, functional and comparative morphology, molecular biology, neuroscience, endocrinology, growth and development, captive maintenance, and other topics of general interest.

Interestingly, the most cited papers from IJP reflect this sustained vision. Top-cited articles examine the morphology, socioecology, and habitats of primates (Table I). Furthermore, it is a fitting testament that an article with conservation implications is among the most cited; IJP has always sought to increase sensitivity to the plight of primates. Since 1989, articles on

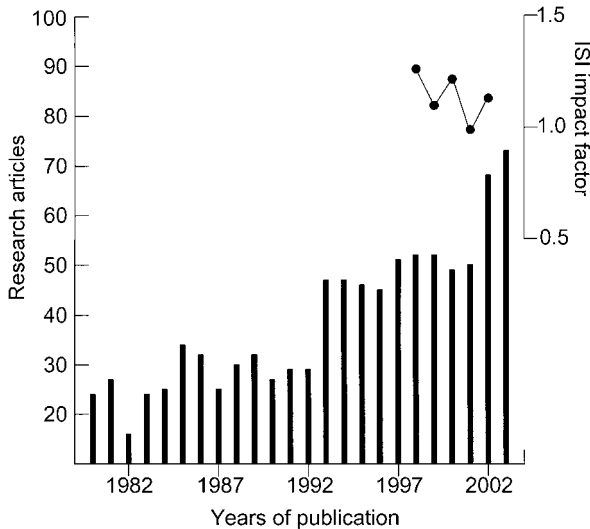


Fig. 1. Total number research articles published from 1980–2003. Impact factors are shown for available years (1998–2002). The Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) impact factor is calculated by dividing all current year citations to articles published in *IJP* during the previous two years. N.B. It will be interesting to see how the surge of articles in 2002 and 2003 will affect this metric.

endangered or threatened species have been flagged with an icon furnished by Elwyn L. Simons and Stephen Nash. Regrettably, the aye-aye proclaiming *VIVAMUS* (“we will live!”) is a prominent emblem on most *IJP* articles.

To further serve the science of primates and their conservation, *IJP* is committed to improving its international presence (Tuttle, 1998). Happily, contributions from Latin America have increased significantly over the past decade (Fig. 2). Of course, many scientists from habitat countries publish papers from addresses in the United States, Canada, or Europe. Accordingly, Fig. 2 is certain to underrepresent the diversity of *IJP* contributors. However, it is equally certain that authorship in *IJP* is far from optimally international; I am especially hopeful that future volumes will see a greater input from African scientists.

Finally, it is notable that the impact factor of *IJP* has been stable since the metric was calculated in 1998 (Fig. 1). Of course, the use of citation trends as a measure of scientific quality is not without flaws (Anderson, 1991). After all, the output of scientific work consists of information, which is semantic in nature and thus defies immediate measurement (Franck, 1999). According to Popper (1992) the only legitimate measure of scientific value are criteria

Table I. Most cited publications from the *International Journal of Primatology*, 1980–2003^b

Rank	Citations	Authors ^a	Title	Year	Volume:pages
1	97	Sussman, R. W. Garber, P. A.	A new interpretation of the social organization and mating system of the Callitrichidae.	1987	8:73–92
2	73	Kay, R. F. Simons, E. L.	The ecology of Oligocene African Anthropoidea.	1980	1:21–37
3	68	Johns, A. D. Skorupa, J. P.	Responses of rain-forest primates to habitat disturbance: A review.	1987	8:157–191
4	67	Moore, J.	Female transfer in primates.	1984	5:537–589
5	66	Conroy, G. C.	Problems of body-weight estimation in fossil primates.	1987	8:115–137

^a1,256 authors have published in IJP. T. Furuichi, S. J. Suomi, and G. C. Westergaard have published the most articles (9), while S. P. Henzi, W. D. Hopkins, M. A. Huffman, J. C. Mitani, and D. P. Watts have each contributed eight.

^bAltmann (1974) is the most cited article within the journal (162 citations).

such as consistency, correspondence to facts, range, and productiveness. Nevertheless, an increasing number of departments and tenure committees are emphasizing citations to judge a researcher’s worth, as a way to allocate

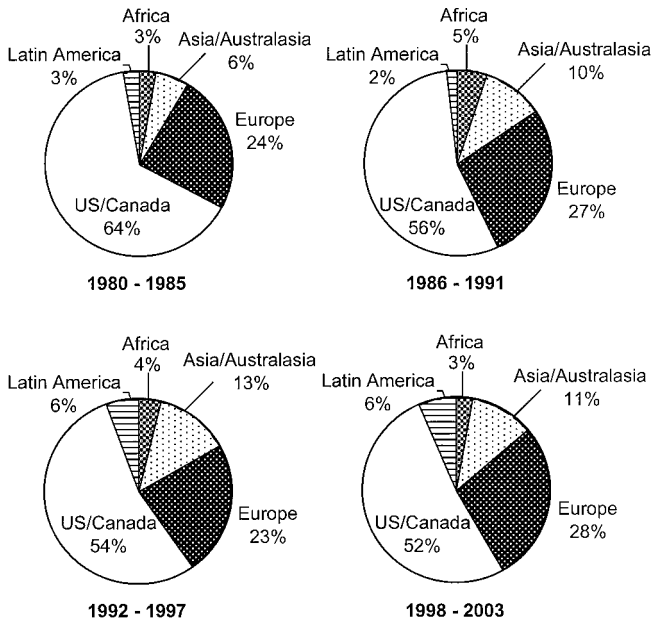


Fig. 2. Pie charts showing the proportion of articles produced from various geographic regions. Assignment to a region is based on the address of the corresponding author.

resources, or to award tenure (Taubes, 1993). Here I acknowledge the authors of the most cited articles published in IJP (Table I)—I make no claim regarding the merit of their work versus that of others. It is clear, however, that the subject matter reflects the strength and spirit of the *International Journal of Primatology*.

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