



Chief Editor for AoB PLANTS : World-Wide : Commencing mid-2025

FURTHER PARTICULARS

The [Annals of Botany Company](#) is seeking a new Chief Editor to lead AoB PLANTS following the retirement of Professor Tom Buckley in the summer of 2025. AoB PLANTS is an online, open-access journal owned by the Company and published by [Oxford University Press](#). Established in 2009, the journal publishes peer-reviewed articles on all aspects of environmental and evolutionary plant biology. It is a sister publication to the online, open-access journal *in silico Plants*, to the traditional journal *Annals of Botany*, and to the blog *Botany One*.

AoB PLANTS has distinguished Advisory and Editorial Boards, employs rigorous double-blind peer evaluation of submitted manuscripts and renders first decisions in 30–35 days. The journal is indexed widely (including Web of Science) and the average of its three most recent annual Impact Factors is 3.0. Over the same period its average Journal Citation Report is 72/223 among journals in the Plant Sciences. The Article Processing Charge for AoB PLANTS is currently set at the attractive rate of £1065 (\$1323) per paper.

Responsibilities. The Chief Editor of AoB PLANTS is charged with full editorial oversight of the journal. The Chief Editor will:

- Sustain a high-quality, open-access scientific journal which is a diverse and inclusive medium for the timely reporting of plant-focused research;
- Implement the editorial and financial policies of the journal as determined by the journal's owner The Annals of Botany Company, an educational charity;
- Support and strengthen the journal's Board of Associate Editors, who arrange for the review of papers assigned to them by the Chief Editor and who subsequently recommend decisions on publication;
- Oversee the processing of submitted manuscripts using a web-based manuscript-submission system (Scholar One);
- Deliver decisions on submitted manuscripts with speed and clarity;
- Maintain and improve the journal's scientific quality and number of submissions;
- Work with the Associate Editors to solicit and encourage special issues, review articles, and mini-reviews on subjects of topical interest;
- Represent and promote the journal at external events and conferences;
- Communicate regularly, and meet occasionally, with the journal's owners and publisher, and with the Chief Editors of *Annals of Botany*, *in silico Plants*, and *Botany One*;
- Report formally on the journal's activities to the Annual General Meetings (summer) and Winter Meetings of The Annals of Botany Company, which generally take place in Oxford and London respectively.

General terms. The Chief Editor will be a plant scientist of high international standing who also has proven editorial experience. He/she may be located anywhere in the world, as the journal's operations are conducted entirely electronically. Further details are:

- The position of Chief Editor is part-time and it is expected that the successful candidate will already have an appointment at a university or research institution. The time to be devoted to the journal is nominally one day per week, or equivalent.
- The Chief Editor provides a freelance service to the Annals of Botany Company and is not an employee of the Company.
- The terms of remuneration are flexible and may involve personal stipend, institutional payment, a salary buy-out, or a grant aided post at the editor's home institution.
- Combinations of two or more remuneration arrangements may also be negotiated.
- Necessary travel expenses, and capital/recurring office expenses, may be negotiated.
- The initial term of the post is five years. This term can be extended by mutual agreement between the Chief Editor and the Company.
- The retiring Chief Editor will be available for advice as required over a mutually agreed transitional period;

Application details. Pre-application inquiries are welcomed. A complete application will include:

- A covering letter detailing your academic background, editorial experience and vision for the journal. In the letter, you should address
 - The reasons for your interest in the post of Chief Editor;
 - The principal qualities and experience you would bring to this position;
 - How you would manage the duties of Chief Editor in the context of other demands on your time and how you would conduct the journal's business on a day-to-day basis;
 - Your view of the future development of *AoB PLANTS* in the context of the highly competitive world of journal publishing.
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae.
- The names and contact information for three scientists who have agreed to serve as referees for your application.

Please compile the application as a single PDF document and email it to the Secretary and Treasurer of the Annals of Botany Company, Prof. Roderick Hunt: r.hunt@exeter.ac.uk to arrive no later than 17 March 2025.

- All applications will be acknowledged by email.
- The Company will short-list candidates by 1 April 2025 and all candidates will be notified.
- Interviews will be conducted in Oxford, UK during April 2025, or sooner if practicable. Please indicate any periods of non-availability in your covering letter. Travel and accommodation expenses for the interview will be paid.
- It is expected that a final decision will be reached by 1 May 2025, or sooner if practicable.

Sources of further information

<i>AoB PLANTS</i>	https://academic.oup.com/aobpla
<i>Annals of Botany</i>	https://academic.oup.com/aob
<i>in silico Plants</i>	https://academic.oup.com/insilicoplants/
<i>Botany One</i>	https://www.botany.one
Oxford University Press	https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/science_and_mathematics
Annals of Botany Company	http://annalsofbotanycompany.co.uk