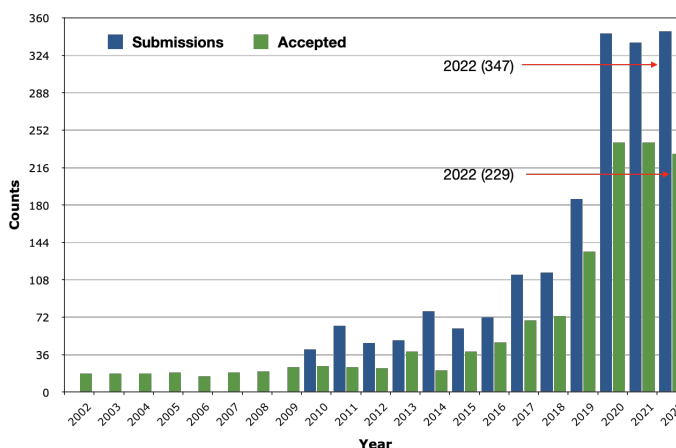


## Journal Status Report 2022

Manuscript submissions to the Philippine Journal of Science (PJS; philjournalsci.dost.gov.ph) in 2022 were at  $28.92 \pm 8.49$  per month, which is 3.3% higher than that ( $28.00 \pm 11.18$ ) in 2021. The acceptance rates in 2021 and 2022 were 71.56 and 66.18%, respectively. Presented below are the annual figures of submitted (blue) and accepted (green) manuscripts from 2002–2022.

The number of submissions in 2022 was 5.78 times higher than that in 2015, whereas the average yearly acceptance rate has remained stable at  $67 \pm 4\%$  within the period of reckoning. Without exception, the Editorial Office subjects every submission to a single-blind review process involving at least two independent expert-evaluators, and an editorial decision is rendered immediately after the first round when major manuscript revision is unanimously recommended. In most cases, the final decision is made on publication suitability after two rounds of evaluation.



**Duration of the peer-review process.** The average lengths of review in 2022 and in the last five years from 2018 were 17.37 weeks and  $13.39 \pm 2.57$  weeks, respectively. The increase in 2022 was due to the relatively long assessment times that submissions to the PJS Special Issue on Philippine Marine Botanical Research (Vol. 151 Issue No. S1) were subjected to. A reduction in the number of staff at the PJS Editorial Office also did not help. Review duration begins from the manuscript receipt date up to the time that a decision is communicated to the corresponding author by the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) concerning its publication suitability.

**Submissions by discipline.** The PJS is a multidisciplinary journal, and the following research areas were the top three contributors accounting for 56.8% of all submissions in 2022: Agriculture & Forestry (23.63%) Biology (22.77%), and Nutrition, Food Science & Technology (10.37%). In 2021, the same areas were the three largest contributors accounting for 60.7% of the total: Biology (28%), Agriculture & Forestry (21.13%), and Nutrition, Food Science & Technology (11.61%). The numbers show that submissions did not emanate from only a few dominant research areas but from a broad spectrum, which allowed the PJS to maintain its multidisciplinary character with no apparent tendency to evolve into a specialized journal.

**Affiliation of corresponding authors.** Seventy-six percent (76.1%) of corresponding authors in 2022 were affiliated with Philippine-based institutions, which is slightly lower than that (77.4%) in 2021. The average percentage of local corresponding authors from 2015 to 2022 was  $79\% \pm 7.75\%$  per year.

In 2022, 47.55% of submissions were the product of successful collaborations between two or more higher education institutions (HEIs) and research centers. Research collaborations have been on an increasing trend—in 2016, their outputs represented only 33.33%. The average number of authors per manuscript in 2021 and 2022 were 4.6 and 4.38, respectively. The average in the last eight years ending 2022 is  $4.21 \pm 0.4$ .

Corresponding authors from the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños (8.1%), UP Diliman (4.79%), and UP Mindanao (1.28%) contributed 14.17% of all submissions in 2022. Thirty-two other HEIs contributed another 27.38. In 2021, the top three contributors were UP Los Baños (6.1%), UP Diliman (4.79%), and UP Manila (1.28%)—together accounting for 12.14% of the total.

***Provenance of peer-reviewers.*** Almost six hundred (597) experts generously served as independent reviewers in 2022 with 45.39% of them based in the Philippines. Their numbers were 652 (local: 44.63%) and 684 (52.78%) in 2021 and 2020, respectively. From 2016–2022, domestic reviewers constituted a yearly average of  $49.17\% \pm 5.25\%$  of the total. The expert advice and professional vigilance of our reviewers have been critical in steadily improving the scientific content and presentation quality of PJS publications. Even for unsuccessful submissions, the constructive criticisms that the PJS provides to the concerned authors are helpful in enhancing the quality of their work.

The PJS continues to enlarge its pool of local reviewers to strengthen the practice of self-regulation and meaningful participation of more Filipino scientists and researchers while recognizing the critical contribution of foreign reviewers in the transfer and diffusion of new scientific knowledge and technical expertise to the Philippine scientific enterprise system.

***Other publication issues.*** In 2022, the PJS published a total of six (6) bimonthly regular issues and one special issue on marine botany. It also increased its presence on social media ([facebook.com/pjs.dost](https://facebook.com/pjs.dost)) to broadcast and highlight the vetted findings of Filipino scientists and researchers to a wider audience. The Special Issue on Philippine Marine Botanical Research was published in July 2022, containing 18 articles representing 69.23% of the total number of submissions.

The journal publisher (Department of Science and Technology, DOST) continues to waive journal publication charges for accepted articles, which are fully accessible online without subscription restriction. Due to budgetary constraints, the PJS only produces printed copies of the four regular quarterly issues per volume while publishing only the focused (special) and supplementary issues online.

***Editorial Board updates.*** The appointment of the EIC was renewed by DOST Secretary Renato Solidum until 31 December 2025. National Scientist Dolores Ramirez, Academicians William Padolina and Fabian Dayrit, and Dr. Queena Lee-Chua were also re-appointed Members of the Board of Editors.

***Shared sense of purpose.*** The PJS is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes research articles satisfying the criteria of originality, novelty, and scientific merit. Its distinct role is to serve as a veritable source of information about the current state of scientific R&D in the Philippines including the crucial task of producing the next generation of Filipino scientists and researchers. The PJS also functions as an instrument for strengthening the practice of self-regulation and metric-based decision-making in the domestic science community and society at large.

The PJS has been proactive and vigilant in implementing the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 10532, RA 9147, and RA 10631 in the conduct and reporting of scientific research investigations within the Philippine archipelago. RA 10532 which institutionalizes the Philippine Health Research System was enacted on 7 May 2013. RA 9147 is also known as an Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and Their Habitats, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes, whereas RA 10631 is an amendment of RA 8485—also known as the Animal Welfare Act of 1998. In applicable cases, corresponding authors are required to show proof that the conduct of their research investigations complies with their implementing rules and regulations. An editorial explaining the pertinent provisions of the three laws with respect to the ethical conduct of scientific research in the country was published in the August 2022 issue (Volume 150, Number 4).

**CAESAR SALOMA**  
*Editor-in-Chief*