

## Looking back ... and forward



Haymo Ross, Editor EurJOC

Of the 14 European chemical societies that founded ChemPubSoc Europe as an organization to combine their publishing activities (see <http://www.chempubsoc.eu/>), to date only 13 have co-owned and supported EurJOC. Now Polskie Towarzystwo Chemiczne (PTC, the Polish Chemical Society) completed the group of EurJOC owner societies by merging their national journal, the *Polish Journal of Chemistry*, with EurJOC and its twin journal EurJIC. These two journals resulted from the amalgamation of several society-owned chemistry journals; for the chemical societies of Austria, the Czech Republic, and Sweden which, for various reasons, have not been able to merge a journal, an “Associate Membership” in EurJIC and EurJOC was set up in 2002. Moreover, there will be a third category of membership within ChemPubSoc Europe as of now: Slovenská chemická spoločnosť (SCHS, the Slovak Chemical Society) has become a “Supporting Society”. The SCHS at the moment is a co-owner of *ChemCatChem* only, which is the latest addition to our family of society-owned European chemistry journals.

Ever since EurJOC was founded its ISI Impact Factor has increased steadily and is now 3.016 (Figure 1). Notwithstanding my general reservation about the Impact Factor and related metrics (see my previous editorials “Statistically Speaking”, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 3–5; “New Citation Impact Metrics”, *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2009**, 1459) I regard this trend as a token of the journal’s success. At the same time an Impact Factor higher than 3 appears to be a challenge. Whilst in 2007 and 2008 the year-to-year growth in manuscript submissions, in contrast to the preceding years, was lower than 10%, in 2009 EurJOC has seen the highest increase in submitted papers in ten years (Figure 2). In particular, since July there has been a 20% growth compared to the numbers of the previous year. Whether or not this recent development is really causatively connected to the announcement of the latest Impact Factor back in June is hard to pin down. At any rate, the challenge is this: We need to cope with the increase with a limited page budget and no more staff for several years. Our publishing quota cannot keep pace with the upsurge in submitted papers (see Figure 2). Consequently, the bar for acceptance in EurJOC has risen considerably and, regrettably, we have to reject papers that might have been accepted a few years ago. Naturally, this gives rise to frustration among more than a few authors.

As shown in Figure 3, the percentage of Short Communications has grown remarkably over the past years. As the Short Communication is defined as a very important paper on a highly significant topic for organic chemists that therefore needs rapid publication, we cannot accept a Short

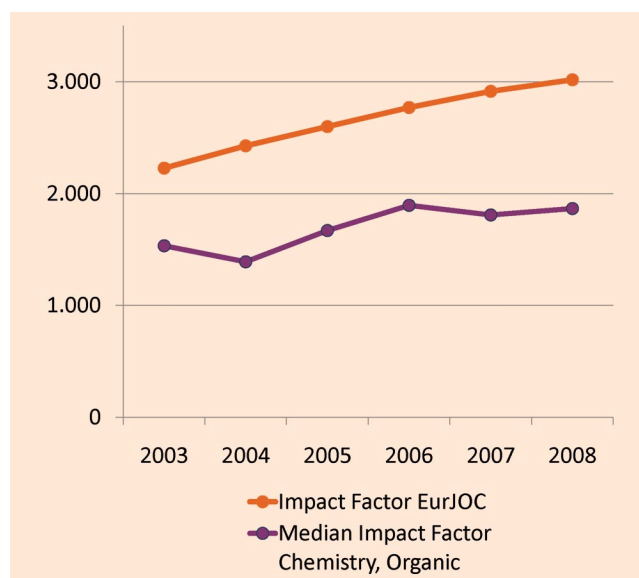


Figure 1. Development of the ISI Impact Factor of EurJOC. The Median Impact Factor of the ISI category “Chemistry, Organic” is shown for comparison.

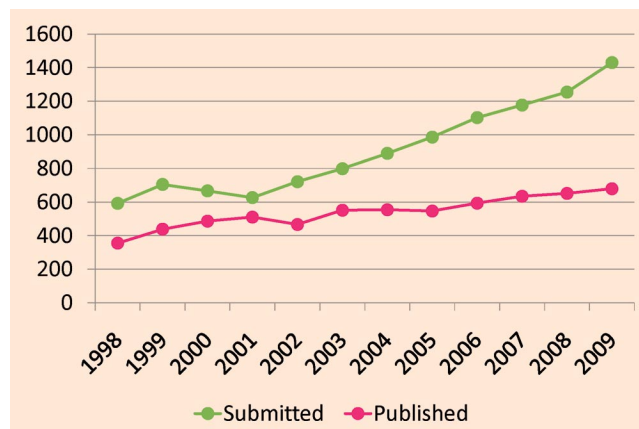


Figure 2. Submitted and published papers since EurJOC was founded (2009 figures extrapolated).

Communication that is considered “less important” by a reviewer even if he/she recommends acceptance. In such a case we assume that the reviewer is not aware of our importance criteria and took the manuscript for a Note rather than a Short Communication. Even a Full Paper, when classified as “less important”, may have to be rejected unless the comments of the referee(s), which certainly are more significant than the importance criteria, clearly support publication in EurJOC. To assist our referees, guidelines about reviewing for EurJOC are now available on our homepage ([www.eurjoc.org](http://www.eurjoc.org), and click on “For Referees”).

Still, the number of published papers is growing slowly and also in quality. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the most popular EurJOC articles that were published last year (as of November 2009). Please note that although the articles are ordered by the total number of downloads the order does not necessarily reflect a ranking in any way: The earlier in the year a paper was published, the more likely its appearance in this list (in fact, papers published in December are not covered at all). Still, you get an impression of the contemporary topics in organic chemistry. Since, as a rule, Microreviews are downloaded more often than primary research

Table 1. EurJOC papers 2009—most accessed Microreviews.

Author(s)	Title	Issue
Gerard P. McGlacken, Ian J. S. Fairlamb	Palladium-Catalysed Cross-Coupling and Related Processes: Some Interesting Observations That Have Been Exploited in Synthetic Chemistry	24
Pedro Merino, Raquel P. Herrera et al.	Catalytic Enantioselective Aza-Henry Reactions	15
Yousuke Ooyama, Yutaka Harima	Molecular Designs and Syntheses of Organic Dyes for Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells	18
Toshiro Harada et al.	Catalytic Enantioselective Aldol Additions to Ketones	22
Tsugio Kitamura	Transition-Metal-Catalyzed Hydroarylation Reactions of Alkynes Through Direct Functionalization of C–H Bonds: A Convenient Tool for Organic Synthesis	8
Carmen Nájera, José M. Sansano et al.	Bifunctional Binols: Chiral 3,3'-Bis(aminomethyl)-1,1'-bi-2-naphthols (Binolams) in Asymmetric Catalysis	15
So Won Youn	Rhodium-Catalyzed Tandem Transformations with Organoboron Reagents: Sequential Multiple C–C Bond Formations	16
Françisco M. Raymo et al.	Fluorescent Switches Based on Photochromic Compounds	13
Thomas Wirth et al.	Recent Advances in Organoselenium Chemistry	11
Christophe Aïssa	Mechanistic Manifold and New Developments of the Julia–Kocienski Reaction	12
Kin-ichi Tadano	Natural Product Synthesis Featuring Intramolecular Diels–Alder Approaches—Total Syntheses of Tubelactomicins and Spiculic Acid A	26

Table 2. EurJOC papers 2009—most accessed Short Communications and Full Papers.

Author(s)	Title [Article Type]	Issue
Dieter Enders et al.	Organocatalytic Asymmetric Sulfa-Michael Additions to $\alpha,\beta$ -Unsaturated Sulfonates [SC]	11
Oliver Reiser et al.	Cyclohexane-1,2-diamines: Efficient Catalysts for the Enantioselective Conjugate Addition of Ketones to Nitro Olefins [SC]	9
U. Marcus Lindström, Johan Wennerberg et al.	Asymmetric Lewis Acid Catalysis in Water: $\alpha$ -Amino Acids as Effective Ligands in Aqueous Biphasic Catalytic Michael Additions [FP]	6
Jarugu Narasimha Moorthy et al.	Highly Diastereo- and Enantioselective Aldol Reactions in Common Organic Solvents Using <i>N</i> -Arylprolinamides as Organocatalysts with Enhanced Acidity [FP]	5
Yiqian Wan et al.	A Facile and Efficient Oxaldihydrazide/Ketone-Promoted Copper-Catalyzed Amination of Aryl Halides in Water [FP]	5
Christophe Darcel et al.	Iron-Catalyzed One-Pot Oxidative Esterification of Aldehydes [SC]	8
Alessandro Del Zotto, Walter Baratta et al.	Very Fast Suzuki–Miyaura Reaction Catalyzed by Pd(OAc) <sub>2</sub> under Aerobic Conditions at Room Temperature in EGME/H <sub>2</sub> O [FP]	1
Shao-Wu Wang et al.	Synthesis of Substituted 5-(Pyrrolidin-2-yl)tetrazoles and Their Application in the Asymmetric Biginelli Reaction [FP]	6
Kari Rissanen, Ari M. P. Koskinen et al.	A Simple Organocatalytic Enantioselective Synthesis of Pregabalin [FP]	9
James McNulty et al.	Highly Stereoselective and General Synthesis of ( <i>E</i> )-Stilbenes and Alkenes by Means of an Aqueous Wittig Reaction [SC]	24

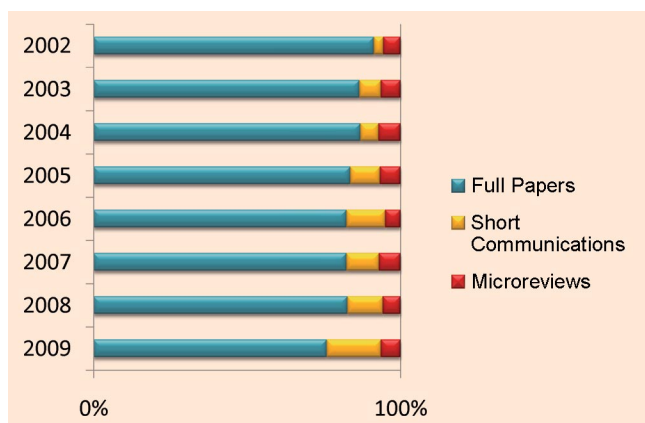


Figure 3. Change of the proportion of Short Communications to Full Papers.

articles, there are two separate Tables, one for Microreviews and one for Short Communications and Full Papers. Asymmetric catalysis, specifically organocatalysis, and transition metal catalysis are obviously prevailing. But topics that are featured less often in the journal, e.g., dye-sensitized solar cells or photochromism, have attracted many readers as well. In 2010, EurJOC will carry on along these lines, pro-

viding high-quality papers from all fields of organic chemistry including borderline and interdisciplinary topics. This issue of EurJOC starts off with a Microreview on the di-enyl-Pauson–Khand Reaction and related transition metal-catalyzed [2+2+1] processes authored by Paul Wender and Mitchell P. Croatt, currently a postdoc in the group of EurJOC advisory board member Erick Carreira. Featured on the cover picture is some fascinating work by Stéphane Quideau and co-workers on the influence of oak C-glycosidic ellagitannins on wine color. As Quideau explains, in this work “organic chemistry is used to predict and unveil what’s going on in the complex wine solution, with here conceivable consequences on its color modulation, instead of simply and solely relying on analytical chemistry to understand it.” Let’s raise a glass of fine Bordeaux (instead of champagne) to the New Year 2010!

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Editor