

Preface to the first issue

First of all, thank You for your interest!

There is more literature on bees than on any other animal collectively. So, why is there a need for a new specialist journal? There are several reasons for this, perhaps the most important being the shortcomings of current scientific publishing strategies.

Knowledge has value, and shared knowledge holds public value. There are many players in this value-creating chain: Research institutions provide facilities, heating, cooling, expensive equipment, materials, and, of course, salaries and fees for researchers. Researchers contribute their years of training, the essential parts of their acquired experience, literature reviews, research ideas, methodological design, significant labour, endurance through setbacks, and ultimately the writing of research articles. This is, of course, a simplified picture, but it captures the essence.

In the past, publishers took on risks by editing and printing scientific journals. Today, their role has diminished: they may edit and organise peer reviews, but publishing on the internet no longer requires them to take on the risks and costs of printing.

A critical question is: to what depth can a reviewer examine a paper? Scientific articles require such detailed and deep knowledge that few reviewers are truly able to assess an article comprehensively. Most cannot replicate the experiments, nor do they have the necessary time or funding. The more knowledgeable an expert is, the less free time they tend to have.

This restricts the pool of reviewers to a narrow field, with only a few having the necessary depth to evaluate a given area.

Most open access journal publishers charge high fees for publishing. This is understandable if they are shouldering the risk of maintaining staff and, of course, needing to generate profit for the business.

Mathematicians were among the first to challenge this system in 2013, founded *Forum of Mathematics, Pi* and *Forum of Mathematics, Sigma*. Since they were already reviewing each other's articles, the modest editing work required with modern tools no longer justified spending \$1,000–\$7,000 on a basic open access journal. Thus, Diamond Open Access journals were created. Here, there are no costs for the reader or the author. If there are costs, they are minimal. These journals operate not for profit but to facilitate scientific exchange among experts, allowing free sharing of results. These journals do not impose censorship. What do we mean by censorship? If a journal is primarily selling its name and impact factor, with citation indices embedded, then the publisher has no interest in articles unlikely to attract high citation numbers. This creates a filter, a form of censorship, and other motivations are not excluded.

Emerging scientists are often measured by their impact factor articles, H-index, and various other metrics. These scientists include significant publication costs in their research budgets, but smaller labs, independent researchers, and individuals are automatically excluded if they cannot afford these costs. Fee waivers are occasionally available, but the process can be humiliating.

There is also a group of people who observe and may even conduct research independently. For example, in this issue, we have a beekeeper who, upon hearing of an upcoming total solar eclipse, decided to observe his bees. He set up a video camera, recorded their behaviour, and analysed it. Naturally, he did not wish to spend thousands of dollars on publishing this.



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APIS does not pursue an impact factor, nor do we reject articles that may negatively affect our impact factor. But we insist on quality and employ a three-fold peer-review process to ensure it.

Thus, it is likely that the strength of our journal will not lie in its impact factor, though valuable insights may still emerge. Who are those indifferent to impact factor? Beekeepers. If someone observes unusual bee behaviour, why shouldn't they describe it? Every beekeeper wants to protect their bees in the best way possible, to farm economically, and to share experiences with fellow beekeepers. Many doctors and natural health practitioners also want reliable data from case studies not to climb the scientific career ladder but to help their patients. Integrative medicine encompasses all branches of healing —including apitherapy— with the goal of giving the patient the best possible chance to recover, or at least maintain their current condition. The WHO has made it its mission to promote integrative medicine. To make integrative medicine's experiences and results widely known, they must be described rigorously, made accessible to everyone, and indexed for searchability.

Students, too, have an interest. By publishing intermediate results, they inform the world of their work, and labs looking for young talent can stay informed.

This list goes on, and we hope that the articles we publish will reflect these ideals.

We welcome submissions from any beekeeping conference, including abstracts, posters, and full articles, as well as individual articles, article updates, book reviews, and historical event descriptions. We provide a platform for all topics addressed by the seven Scientific Commissions of Apimondia, the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, are as follows:

1. Beekeeping Economy

Focuses on the economics of beekeeping, including market trends, trade, honey production, and the overall impact of beekeeping on the economy.

2. Bee Health

Deals with issues related to the health and diseases of bees, including pests, pathogens, and management practices to protect and sustain bee populations.

3. Pollination and Bee Flora

Covers the role of bees in pollination, the interaction between bees and plants, and the importance of maintaining biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for optimal pollination.

4. Technology and Quality

Concerned with advancements in beekeeping technology, tools, and techniques, as well as the quality standards for bee products such as honey, beeswax, and propolis.

5. Apitherapy

Explores the therapeutic uses of bee products like honey, bee venom, propolis, and royal jelly in promoting health and treating various medical conditions.

6. Rural Development

Examines the role of beekeeping in sustainable rural development, poverty alleviation, and enhancing the livelihoods of rural communities.

7. Bee Biology

Involves the study of the biology of bees, including their genetics, physiology, behaviour, and ecological significance.

APIS Journal is a peer-reviewed, non-censored scientific journal. It is Diamond Open Access, freely available for everyone to read and cite. Indexing is entrusted to CrossRef.

Editor-in-Chief

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