

EDITORIALS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Non-Peer Review Section

***THOMSON REUTERS REPORTS THE FIRST OFFICIAL 2-YEAR AND
5-YEAR IMPACT RATINGS FOR HCB.***

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We are pleased to announce that Thomson Reuters listed its first official impact ratings for Herpetological Conservation and Biology in its latest edition of Journal Citation Reports. We have for several years self-calculated HCB's impact rating using and tracked various citation indices through other venues including Scopus, Harzing's Publish or Perish, and Google Scholar. Despite not having an impact rating assigned by Journal Citation Reports since the inception of HCB, authors have confidently submitted very important papers. This support will certainly continue. In fact, the flood of manuscripts that HCB received after announcement that it would be included in Journal Citation Reports has been impressive.

Journal Citation Reports provides several citation indices for journals. Among these is the 2-year and the 5-year journal impact rating, also referred to as impact factor. The 2-year impact rating for this year is calculated by the following formula:

$$A/B = \text{Journal Impact Rating}$$

Where:

A = The total number of "citable items" published by that journal in 2009 and 2010

B = The number of times articles published in 2009 and 2010 were cited by indexed journals in 2011

And:

Citable items do not include editorials or letters to the editor, but do include notes, articles, reviews, proceedings, and other research articles.

The 5-year impact rating includes articles published in the previous five years that were cited in 2011, and is a better indicator of sustained importance in the field.

Based on these formulas, Journal Citation Reports calculated the HCB 2-year impact rating = 0.62, and the

5-year impact rating = 0.76. These are very respectable scores for an initial rating and we expect they will rise very rapidly as people who are less willing to publish in non-rated journals begin to use HCB as an outlet for their research. To further elaborate on the citation status of HCB, we draw attention to a citation metric called the m-quotient. This index is an age-based citation rating that is calculated using the h-index score for a journal based on this equation:

$M = h/\text{age of the publication in years}$

H = the number of articles (n) with n citations.

So, if a journal had three articles with three citations or 100 articles with three citations its $h = 3$. A 100 year old journal with $h = 3$ would have $m = 3/100 = 0.03$. The m-quotient for HCB is currently 1.63 as reported by Harzing's Publish or Perish. This appears to be the second highest m-quotient among all contemporary herpetology journals.

Although much credit is due to the section, associate and assistant editors for their unwavering devotion to the mission of HCB, the primary credit must go to the authors who continue to use HCB to showcase their research. HCB will continue to provide a stable, quality and rapid publication outlet for herpetological research from around the globe. Thank you for your incredible support through the launch and continuing growth of HCB.

Journal Citation Reports Impact Rating

2-year = 0.62

5-year = 0.76

HCB's m-quotient ($m = 1.63$), an age-based citation rating, is higher than all herpetology journals except Chelonian Conservation and Biology ($m = 1.86$) according to Harzing's Publish and Perish!