

# **AJB Special Issue Call for Papers:**

## **Understanding novel fire regimes using plant trait–based approaches**

**Proposal Deadline EXTENDED: March 10, 2024**

Fire is a natural disturbance in many biomes, but altered fire regimes are a global change threat impacting both fire-sensitive and fire-dependent ecosystems. Novel fire regimes now affect many ecosystems, and as the main fuels of wildfires, plants feature prominently in our understanding of fire as part of a changing world. The *American Journal of Botany* is organizing a special issue to showcase **studies using trait-based approaches to understand fire–plant dynamics from evolutionary, ecological, organismal, physiological, fire management, and conservation perspectives.**



Plant traits—in the broad sense, including functional, species, response and effect, and emergent traits—can provide mechanistic insights across biological scales, improving our understandings of evolutionary syndromes conferring fire tolerance to plants, plant responses to altered frequency and intensity of fires, the role of plant flammability, plant community assembly under novel fire regimes, restoration in the context of fire, fire as a restoration tool, Indigenous land management incorporating fire, and many other botanical aspects of novel fire regimes.

We welcome studies using a diversity of approaches, including experiments, field studies, restoration projects, syntheses, and reviews. Given that altered fire regimes are global phenomena, we strive for a special issue with a global perspective. In particular, fire is emerging as a novel threat in many regions with historically low fire frequency, making these systems promising sites for novel fire regime studies, such as the Pacific Islands, tropical wet forests, high-elevation and cloud forests, alpine and polar forests, grasslands, and bogs. We encourage authors from all parts of the world and at all career stages to submit proposals for studies examining plant traits in the context of novel fire regimes.

**How to submit a proposal:** Authors interested in contributing to the “Plant Traits in Novel Fire Regimes” special issue of *AJB* should email a proposal to [ajb@botany.org](mailto:ajb@botany.org) that includes a **tentative title; tentative author list, including each author’s career stage and affiliation;** and a **300-word abstract**. The abstract should clearly convey the study objectives, biogeographic focus, plant traits examined, and scope of the novel fire regime. Please contact Special Issue Co-Editor Kasey Barton with any questions ([kbarton@hawaii.edu](mailto:kbarton@hawaii.edu)).

**The deadline for proposal submission is March 1, 2024.** Proposals will be reviewed by the Editor-in-Chief and Special Issue Guest Editors; authors will be notified by April 1, 2024, as to whether their proposal was accepted. Proposal submissions from early-career researchers are particularly encouraged.

**Authors whose proposals are accepted should submit their manuscript by August 1, 2024.** Note that acceptance of a proposal does not guarantee the eventual acceptance of the manuscript, as all manuscripts will be rigorously peer-reviewed and held to the standards of the journal. **The target date for publication of the special issue is spring 2025.**

*AJB* is a hybrid journal, with an option for Open Access. See the [Author Guidelines](#) for details on journal scope, article types, and manuscript preparation.

For papers submitted to the special issue: corresponding authors who are not currently BSA members will be offered a complimentary 1-year membership. BSA members publish in *AJB* for free; if they wish to publish their work Open Access, they receive a member discount on the APCs.

Sincerely,

Special Issue Editors

Kasey Barton, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA

Stephanie Yelenik, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, USA

Dylan Schwilk, Texas Tech University, USA

Imma Oliveras, Botany and Modeling of Plant Architecture and Vegetation IRD, France

Tim Curran, Lincoln University, New Zealand

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