Awards for excellence

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Best Paper Awards 2009

I am very pleased to announce that the following papers won the JPR Best Paper Award 2009:

- (a) Shuichi Tagane, Michikazu Hiramatsu, and Hiroshi Okubo (2008) Hybridization and asymmetric introgression between *Rhododendron eriocarpum* and *R. indicum* on Yakushima Island, southwest Japan. J Plant Res 121:387–395
- (b) Yutaka Kodama, Hidenori Tsuboi, Takatoshi Kaga-wa, and Masamitsu Wada (2008) Low temperature-induced chloroplast relocation mediated by a blue light receptor, phototropin 2, in fern gametophytes. J Plant Res 121:441–448.

These award-winning works were selected from all the original papers published in the *Journal of Plant Research* in 2008, by a vote of the editorial board members according to the JPR Awards Selection Procedure. Reflecting the broad scope of our journal, which covers a wide range of plant sciences from taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, and ecology, to molecular genetics, these two papers are in the fields of taxonomy and molecular physiology, respectively.

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In Tagane et al., the authors found asymmetric introgression between *Rhododendron eriocarpum* and *R. indicum* on Yakushima Island, one of the hot spots in plant biodiversity in Japan. They carried out not only genetic analysis but also morphological and ecological analyses, deducing the nature of the selective pressures on these hybrids.

In Kodama et al., the authors showed that chloroplast relocation in a fern, *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, is induced not only by light but also by low temperature. Interestingly, the low temperature-induced chloroplast relocation is, they revealed, governed by a blue light photoreceptor, phototropin 2. Their finding stimulated researchers in this field by showing that responses to low temperature and to light intensity share some common mechanisms.

Most-Cited Paper Award

In addition to above-mentioned awards, another winner was chosen. The Most-Cited Paper Award was selected from all the papers published in 2006 by reference to the ISI database. On that basis, the award was bestowed for the following paper:

Chunlan Lian, Md. Abdul Wadud, Qifang Geng, Kenichiro Shimatani, and Taizo Hogetsu (2006) An improved technique for isolating codominant compound microsatellite markers. J Plant Res 119:415–417.

In their study, the authors developed an approach for designing codominant SSR markers involving a shorter time and lower costs. This technique has great potential for helping researchers in evolutionary and species biology who use SSR markers for their analyses. The paper was cited 23 times by the end of year 2008, and continues to be cited.

Fig. 1 Rank of the *Journal of Plant Research* among plant science journals

Improved quality and recognition of our journal

Not only the three papers mentioned above but also a number of other fine papers published in JPR are cited by many plant scientists. The ISI impact factor as well as total citation of JPR papers has been steadily increasing since 2006, with the score for 2008 being 1.590. In addition, the

ranking of JPR among plant science journals rose, from 61 among 152 journals in 2007 (40.1%) to 56 among 155 journals in 2008 (36.1%) (Fig. 1). This achievement is one of the results of the great efforts of the editors, in particular, the former Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Kazuhiko Nishitani. In addition, thanks to our authors, reviewers, readers, and publisher, Springer, improvement in the quality of the journal has continued its upward trend, as we have seen, and we are confident that more is yet to come.

Hirokazu Tsukaya

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Plant Research*

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