

## Editorial

### The First Decade (2013-2022) of *Life: The Excitement of Biology*

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This is my annual summary of the major developments of *Life: The Excitement of Biology*, emphasizing 2022. Although the pandemic is diminished, field work during 2022 and 2023 and with the multiple demands of my professional life have intensified and I have not been able to complete as many issues of *LEB* as I had intended. I take full responsibility for what I can control. Other unexpected circumstances that I cannot control have contributed to my delay. Felicitously, I have been receiving more papers for consideration for possible publication in *LEB* and that is good news.

Wholehearted thanks to the readers who have sent encouraging messages to me, such as: “40 issues: Congratulations and THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH! I repeat what I said before: ‘you are the best and most helpful editor I ever had.’ ” (Caps on the original.)

One of the many reasons that motivated me to create *Life: The Excitement of Biology* in 2012 (and to begin publishing in 2013) was to foster an atmosphere of innovation based on constructive feedback so that authors may improve their work. Whether the paper emphasizes molecular biology or ecosystemology or anything in between, the goal remains the same, to bring science to all in a clear and well-illustrated form. On this point, another reader of *LEB* commented that “*LEB* is such an exemplar case of what can happen with perseverance, talent, and vision. You have created a wonderful instantiation of your passion that resonates with a wide range of readers. And it seems that you have inverted the general rule of technical journals from ‘Can we find a reason to reject this?’ to ‘How can we help the author to make this publishable?’ ”

Volume 10 included a large paper on a Caribbean species of soft coral, *Gorgonia ventalina*, the first major molecular genetics contribution ever published in *LEB* 10(3):152-202 ([https://blaypublishers.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/rodriguez-matos-et-al.\\_leb103-4.pdf](https://blaypublishers.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/rodriguez-matos-et-al._leb103-4.pdf)). This contribution, authored by Rodríguez-Matos et al. 2023, was reviewed by numerous experts who helped improve the paper substantially. Also, a paper on the impact of *Sargassum* described the impact of this large, brown, floating algae on the biodiversity of a shallow lagoon in northeastern Puerto Rico. The

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authors, Dr. Miguel Sastre and his group, pursued their desire to have the data analyzed statistically and they succeeded producing a gem (Sastre et al. 2022, **LEB** 10(4):203-242, [https://blaypublishers.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/sastre\\_et\\_al\\_leb104.pdf](https://blaypublishers.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/sastre_et_al_leb104.pdf)). I consider those major successes for **LEB** in volume 10.

I am profoundly grateful to all who have helped me during the past decade and hope that you will continue supporting this call. Also, I want to wholeheartedly thank the reviewers and guest editors who help make **Life: The Excitement of Biology** possible. The personnel of Wolf Printing of York, Pennsylvania (USA), printers of the hard copy version of **LEB**, and WordPress, carrier of the digital version of **Life: The Excitement of Biology** and their friendly and helpful online staff members deserve special recognition.

Please, feel free to spread the word about **Life: The Excitement of Biology** and its high quality, fast publication, and editorial helpfulness. Good health permitting, I intend to make the wishes of this reader true: “I hope that you still have the drive to continue for some more time.” Join me in a wonderful voyage of discovery during years to come.

Sincerely and gratefully,

*Jorge Santiago-Blay*

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