Journal of Vegetation Science IAVS

EDITORIAL

Cross-Citation Patterns Between the *Journal of Vegetation Science* and Other Ecological Journals

Valério D. Pillar[1] | Jodi Price[2] | Viktoria Wagner[3] | Milan Chytrý[4]

[1]Department of Ecology, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil | [2]Gulbali Institute, Charles Sturt University, Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia | [3]Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada | [4]Department of Botany and Zoology, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Correspondence: Valério D. Pillar (vpillar@ufrgs.br)

Received: 24 December 2024 | **Accepted:** 24 December 2024

1 | Cross-Citations

Scientific progress relies on the exchange of ideas, often acknowledged through citations. Journals within the same scientific field cite each other as they share overlapping topics and contribute to shared knowledge networks. In earlier editorials (Pärtel et al. 2016; Pillar et al. 2022), we explored these networks for the *Journal of Vegetation Science* (*JVS*). In this editorial, we analyse cross-citation patterns between *JVS* and other ecological journals to understand the connections and roles these journals play in advancing shared scientific questions.

We used *Journal Citation Reports* (Clarivate 2024) to compile citation records from articles published in *JVS*. Citation counts of *JVS* articles in other journals and of these journals in *JVS* were limited to articles published in the last 10 years (2014–2023), except for a few journals that were included in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR) after 2014. Our analysis included 49 journals meeting at least one of two criteria: they cited the *JVS* articles published during this period at least 15 times or they were cited in the *JVS* articles at least 15 times. As the analysis is centred on *JVS* articles that within the same timeframe were either cited by the other journal or were citing this journal, we were not concerned about unequal numbers of articles published by each journal.

The results, presented in Figure 1, show that in approximately 71% of the listed journals, citations of *JVS* articles exceeded *JVS* citations of those journals. Journals with the highest citations of *JVS* articles tended to have an applied focus, including *Forest Ecology and Management*, *Science of the Total Environment*, *Forests,* and *Applied Vegetation Science* (our sister journal), along with *Global Ecology and Conservation, Ecological Indicators*, and *Biodiversity and Conservation*. Journals focused on fundamental research, such as the *Journal of Ecology*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *Functional Ecology*, *Plant Ecology*, *Oikos*, *Flora,* and *Journal of Biogeography*, also contributed substantially.

Conversely, for 29% of the listed journals, *JVS* cited their articles more frequently than they cited *JVS*. This pattern was most notable in *New Phytologist*, *Global Ecology and Biogeography*, *Ecology*, *Ecography*, *Ecology Letters* and other journals with lower citation counts in *JVS*, all of which focus on fundamental and theoretical aspects of ecology and plant sciences. Some journals, such as the *Journal of Ecology* and *Global Change Biology*, had relatively high and balanced citation counts in both directions, whereas others, like the *Journal of Biogeography*, *Scientific Reports*, *PLOS One,* and *Journal of Applied Ecology*, showed balanced but overall low citation numbers.

The findings suggest varied citation dynamics influenced by journal focus. The higher citation counts in applied journals highlight the relevance of *JVS* articles for scientists developing solutions in vegetation management, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem monitoring. Although *JVS* does not focus on applied research (this is published in our sister journal *Applied Vegetation Science*), the results suggest that *JVS* articles on fundamental plant community ecology are sources of theoretical and empirical support as well as tools to inform applied research. The balanced citation relationship with the *Journal of Ecology* and *Global Change Biology* suggests that the fundamental questions and approaches of both journals resonate with each other, in contrast to some other fundamental ecology journals that cited *JVS* less often than they were cited by *JVS*.

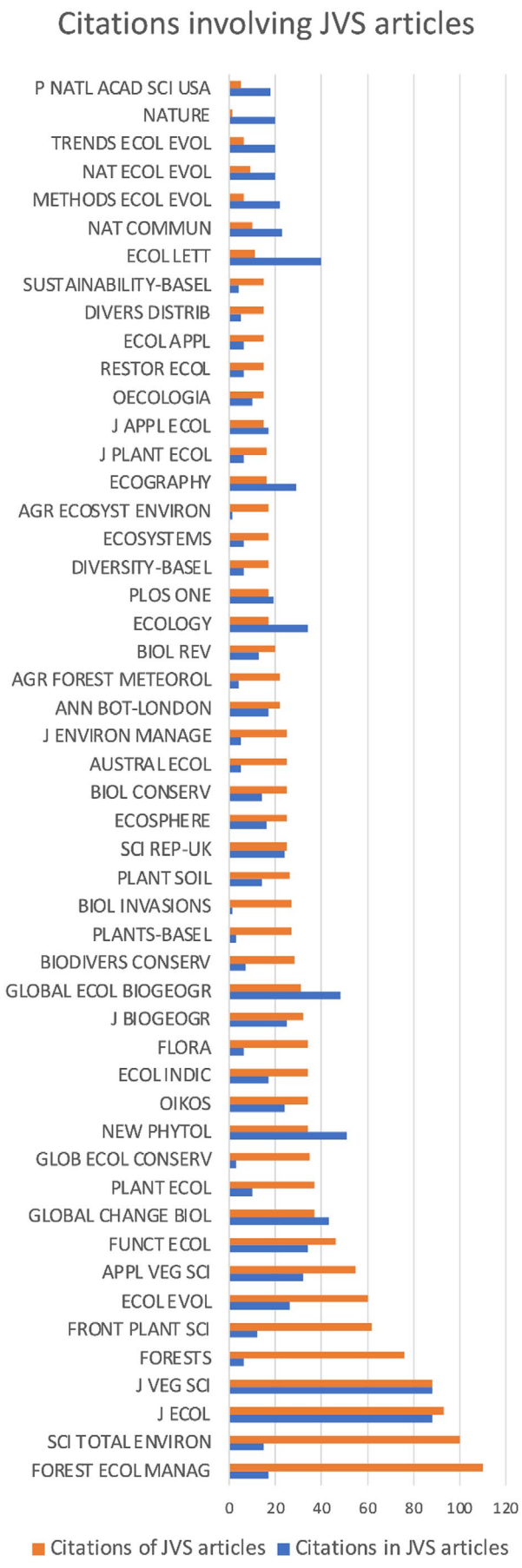

FIGURE 1 | Cross-citation of articles published in the *Journal of Vegetation Science* (*JVS*). For each listed journal, we present the number of citations of *JVS* articles alongside the number of citations of articles from these journals in *JVS* articles. Both citation counts relate to articles published during the same timeframe from 2014 to 2023, except for *NAT ECOL EVOL* (2017–2023), and *DIVERSITY-BASEL* and *PLANTS-BASEL* (2018–2023), as they were included more recently in the *Journal Citation Reports* (JCR). The list includes journals with at least 15 citations of *JVS* articles or with at least 15 citations in *JVS* articles. *JVS* is also listed in terms of the number of self-citations. Citation counts were compiled from the *Journal Citation Reports* (Clarivate 2024).

2 | Editors' Award

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 Editor's Award goes to the methodological article by Andrew Siefert, Daniel Laughlin and Francesco Sabatini (Siefert, Laughlin, and Sabatini 2024) on the use of species co-occurrence data to make ecological predictions. They introduce and evaluate an innovative method to encode species co-occurrence data into low-dimensional vectors, capturing distinct ecological information that may not be evident in traits or phylogeny. They tested the method using species co-occurrence data from sPlotOpen, a global vegetation plot database (Sabatini et al. 2021). The vectors were then applied to predict species elevation range shifts using an independent data set from European mountains. The new method improved the predictive power compared with using traits or phylogeny.

An article by Petra Janečková, Lubomír Tichý, Lawrence R. Walker and Karel Prach (Janečková et al. 2024) emerged as a forerunner for the Editors' Award. The authors analysed the trajectory of spontaneous succession on the basis of 528 published studies from around the world. Their results showed that the type of disturbance was the most significant factor underlying success in achieving target vegetation recovery, with vegetation changes after fire showing the most successful outcomes, whereas those after volcano eruptions had the least successful results. Vegetation trajectories were also shaped by temperature and latitude, and to a lesser degree by biological factors.

The second forerunner to the Editors' Award was a research article by Juliette Hocedez, Karine Gotty, Vanessa Hequet, Sandrine Chay, Audrey Léopold, Stéphane Dray and Yohan Pillon, which explored the co-existence of vascular plant species in a diverse shrubland on nutrient-poor and metal-rich soils in New Caledonia (Hocedez et al. 2024). Based on an analysis of the leaf ionome (22 chemical elements) and types of root symbioses, the authors found that species occupied distinct niches, with the rarest species displaying the most functionally unique attributes. The authors concluded that species co-existence in the studied plant community is likely explained by the partitioning of their biogeochemical niches.

3 | Journal News

As you may notice when reading the PDF version of this Editorial, the graphic design of the articles has changed. This design has

been introduced in many other journals published by Wiley, our publisher. However, the *Journal of Vegetation Science* is owned by the International Association for Vegetation Science, and the team of editors is related to this association. Currently, the journal has four Chief Editors, 36 Associate Editors and 36 members of the Editorial Review Board. In 2024, Gabriella Damasceno and Glenda Mendieta-Leiva were appointed as new members of the Editorial Review Board. Jonathan Bennett and Yasuhiro Kubota have stepped down as Associate Editors. Many thanks to them and to the other members of the Editorial Board for their dedicated work for the journal. We are also grateful for the help of 256 reviewers over the past year, many of whom reviewed more than one article (Appendix A).

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Data Availability Statement

The records used for the cross-citation analysis were compiled from https://clarivate.com/academia-government/scientific-and-academic-research/research-funding-analytics/journal-citation-reports/, accessed on December 12, 2024.

References

Clarivate. 2024. "Journal Citation Reports." Clarivate. Accessed December 12, 2024. https://clarivate.com/academia-government/scientific-and-academic-research/research-funding-analytics/journal-citation-reports/.

Hocedez, J., K. Gotty, V. Hequet, et al. 2024. "Community Ionomics Reveals a Diversity of Mineral Nutrition in a Species-Rich Shrubland on Infertile Soil." *Journal of Vegetation Science* 35: e13301. https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13301.

Janečková, P., L. Tichý, L. R. Walker, and K. Prach. 2024. "Global Drivers Influencing Vegetation During Succession: Factors and Implications." *Journal of Vegetation Science* 35: e13297. https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13297.

Pärtel, M., A. Chiarucci, M. Chytrý, and V. D. Pillar. 2016. "How to Publish a Good Journal in Plant Community Ecology?" *Journal of Vegetation Science* 27: 1–3. https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.12368.

Pillar, V. D., M. Pärtel, J. N. Price, and M. Chytrý. 2022. "Collaboration Networks and Hot Topics in the *Journal of Vegetation Science*." *Journal of Vegetation Science* 33: e13108. https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13108.

Sabatini, F. M., J. Lenoir, T. Hattab, et al. 2021. "sPlotOpen – An Environmentally Balanced, Open-Access, Global Dataset of Vegetation Plots." *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 30: 1740–1764. https://doi.org/10.1111/geb.13346.

Siefert, A., D. C. Laughlin, and F. M. Sabatini. 2024. "You Shall Know a Species by the Company It Keeps: Leveraging Co-Occurrence Data to Improve Ecological Prediction." *Journal of Vegetation Science* 35: e13314. https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.13314.

Appendix A

List of Referees

We thank the referees who served the *Journal of Vegetation Science* from 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024. Those who reviewed more than twice are indicated by asterisks.

Mark A. Adams
Suzana Alcantara
Aitor Ameztegui
Nannan An
José Luis Andrade
Roi Ankori-Karlinsky
Fabien Anthelme
Joseph Antos
Pedro Antunes
Margarita Arianoutsou
Maria Ariza
Cris Armas
Fabio Attorre
Gunnar Austrheim
Irena Axmanová
Selene Baez
Yuxuan Bai
Francielli Bao
Audrey Barker Plotkin
Maral Bashirzadeh
Davide De Battisti
Manuele Bazzichetto
Eleonora Beccari
Fia Bengtsson
Ariel Bergamini
Kristine Birkeli
Shekhar Biswas
Luiz Bondi
Mauricio Bonifacino
Stephen Bonser
Gudrun Bornette
Richard Bradshaw
Richard Busing*
Sofía Campana
Charles Canham
Jorge Capelo
Marcos Carlucci
Lohengrin Cavieres
Emilie Champagne
Anne Chao
Stefano Chelli
Paolo Cherubini
Marco Antonio Chiminazzo
Kwek Yan Chong
Yann Clough
Richard Cobb
Alex Coelho
Courtney Collins
Timo Conradi
Jordan Coscia
André Coutinho
Anikó Csecserits*
Gabriella Damasceno
Nicola Day
Iwona Dembicz
Jürgen Dengler
Martin Diekmann
Jan Douda
Martin Dovciak
Enzai Du
Johan Ehrlén
Pia Eibes
László Erdős
Tiscar Espigares
Franz Essl
Jörg Ewald
Emanuele Fanfarillo
Annamária Fenesi
José Maria Fernández-Palacios
Thalita Ferreira-Arruda
Alessandra Fidelis
Felícia M. Fischer
Alejandro Flores-Palacios
Maria Carla de Francesco
Talitha Francisco
Rosalina Gabriel
Xueyuan Gao
Matteo Garbarino
Mário Garbin
C. Garcia-Verdugo
Carol Garzon-Lopez
Sabrina Gavini
Caio Graco Roza
H. Ricardo Grau
Johanne Gresse
Riccardo Guarino
Anaclara Guido
Jessica Gurevitch
Georg Hähn
Tina Heger
Steffi Heinrichs
Martin Hejda
Norbert Helm
Tomáš Herben
Ileana Herrera
Maximilian Hesselbarth
Jan Holik
Mark Hovenden

Dafeng Hui
Ricardo Ibáñez
Franck Jabot
Philippe Janssen
Renaud Jaunatre
Fernando Joner
Jutta Kapfer
Julia Kemppinen
Janez Kermavnar
Michael Kessler
Ryo Kitagawa
Adam Klimeš
Jitka Klimešová
Johannes Kollmann
Alessandra Kortz
Jean Kramer
Matthew Krna
Gen Kusakabe
Greta La Bella
Lauri Laanisto
Maxime Lavoie
Peter le Roux
Soizig Le Stradic
Maria Lencinas
Jan Lepš
Yanpeng Li
Zhenqing Li
Pierre Liancourt
Congcong Liu
Qi Liu
Zhimin Liu
Luis Daniel Llambí
Javier Lopatin
Luis López-Mársico
Xavier López-Medellín
Ádám Lőrincz
Gianalberto Losapio
Yahuang Luo
Miaojun Ma
Rosina Magaña Ugarte
Adrian Manning
Thomas Mansfield
Violeta Martinez
Cristina Martínez-Garza
Valéria Martins
Jorge David Mercado Gomez
Valerie Milici
Fraser Mitchell
Jesper E. Moeslund
Fabio Mologni
Andrea Mondoni
Ondřej Mudrák
Sandra Müller
Ming Ni
Matthew Nieland
Yujie Niu
Wilhelm Osterman
Piotr Osyczka
Emilia Pafumi
Bruno Paganeli
Robin Pakeman
Facundo Palacio
Meelis Pärtel
Gustavo Paterno
Ricarda Pätsch
Juli Pausas
Antonio Perea
Maria Angeles Perez-Navarro
Israel Pérez-Vargas
Jan Pergl
Petra Hájková
Gwendolyn Peyre
Simon Pierce
János Podani
Pawel Pohl
Giacomo Puglielli
Ruwan Punchi-Manage
Amparo Quiñones
Maiara Ramos
Gillian Rapson
David Richardson
Marina Rincon-Madroñero
Dave Roberts
Kevin M. Robertson
Bjorn Robroek
Antonio Rodríguez
Andrés Rolhauser
Sergey Rosbakh
Juliette Rosebery
Eszter Ruprecht
Francesco Maria Sabatini
Hugo Saiz*
Francesco Santi
Simona Sarmati
Julia Sfair
Spyros Sfendourakis
Sebastian Schmidtlein
Mercia P. P. Silva
Fernando Silveira
Christina Skarpe
Michal Slezák
Simon Smart
Judit Sonkoly
Diego Sotomayor
Marko J. Spasojevic
Marta Gaia Sperandii
Nils Stanik
Angela Stanisci
Susana Stoffella
Helena Streit*
Akshay Surendra
Magdalena Szymura
Tomasz Szymura
Mariana Tadey
Riin Tamme*
Leonardo Teixeira
Elisa Thouverai
Renato Toledo
Andrea De Toma
Enrico Tordoni
Péter Török
Liam Trethowan
Panagiotis Trigas
Diego Trindade
James Tsakalos
Ioannis Tsiripidis
María Umaña
Mercedes Valerio
Liesbeth van den Brink
Juliano van Melis
Sofia van Moorsel
Sergio Velasco Ayuso
Roy Vera Velez
Peter Vesk
Jessica Viana
Pedro Villa
Risto Virtanen
Catharina Vloon
Julien Vollering
Christine Wallis
Jizhong Wan
Wenjie Wang
Xiang-tai Wang
Magali Weissgerber
Karsten Wesche*
Jennie Whinam
Thomas Wohlgemuth
Sa Xiao
Bingcheng Xu
Florencia Yannelli
Zuoqiang Yuan
David Zelený
Hui Zhang
Shilu Zheng
Jess Zimmerman
Martin Zobel
Talita Zupo
Victor Zwiener