



## **CAN THE THEMATIC GROUPING USED BY SCIMAGO INFLUENCE THE SUCCESS OF HUNGARIAN BRYOLOGISTS?**

Befolyásolhatja-e a magyar bryológusok sikerét  
a SCImago tematikus csoportosítása?

*János Csiky*

*University of Pécs, Faculty of Sciences, institute of Biology, Department of Ecology,  
7624 Pécs, Ifjúság u. 6.; E-mail: moon@gamma.ttk.pte.hu*

In the 21st century judging the success of scientific work, and thus of researchers, increasingly depends on certain indicators of scientometry. Instead of impact factors, judging the journals by quartile (or decimal) domains within their own scientific fields is gaining more and more weight nowadays. This is especially true in Hungary, where the excellence of researchers, including the financial support of applicants and the assessment/evaluation of academic careers in the near future, will depend to a very large extent on the ranking of SCImago journals.

The new scientific standard in Hungary, which also takes into account the age of researchers, is represented by *tudomanymetria.com*. The latter evaluates researchers' excellence based on their first-quartile (Q1) publications in which they were first or last authors. Drawing on this and two other indicators (H-index, independent citations) researchers are classified into decimal categories by *tudomanymetria.com*.

At the same time, SCImago classifies journals into 27 major areas and 313 specific subject categories (sub-groups). Bryological journals, for example, can be found in the main group of 'Agricultural and biological sciences'. Within that, the Journal of Bryology, one of the most prestigious European journals in this field is clustered into the following sub-groups: a) Ecology, Evolution, Behaviour and Systematics; b) Plant Sciences. In both sub-groups it falls into category Q2. The same is true for other significant bryological journals such as *Bryologist* (Q2), *Cryptogamie Bryologie* (Q3), *Lindbergia* (Q3), *Nova Hedwigia* (Q3-Q2). This means that if a researcher publishes his/her results in the most significant bryological journals, his/her contribution will be underestimated by the Hungarian standard (*tudomanymetria.com*). In the current national research grant application system only scholars in the top decimal group have a chance to win. Those bryologists (including postdoctoral and senior researchers) who have published their results in the above-mentioned journals, cannot successfully apply for Hungarian scientific calls. This issue must be solved in the interest of bryological researches in Hungary. My presentation proposes two possible solutions to fix that problem.