

BIOLOGY OF ORGANISMS

Coordinators: Jaume Terradas (1) and Xavier Llimona (2)

(1) Professor of the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology, and Ecology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Member of the Institute for Catalan Studies' Biological Sciences Division.

E-mail: *jaume.terradas@uab.es*

(2) Professor of the Department of Plant Biology at the University of Barcelona.

Member of the Institute for Catalan Studies' Biological Sciences Division.

E-mail: *xllimona@ub.es*

Summary

This report presents a study of Catalan research in the Biology of Organisms for the period 1996–2002. As a whole, research groups in this field tend to be small, scattered, and suffering from strong deficits in equipment and personnel. One of the obstacles to increasing resources is the inadequacy of the current criteria for evaluating research, which has led to an excessively high percentage of failures in open competitions for funding. The importance of continued research in this field makes it advisable to revise the evaluation criteria. The data show slow growth in human resources and the total number of investigators is less than 650. Total financing obtained from competitive, state-supported, and European programs was 27 million Euros. Important funding of research in the Biology of Organisms comes from other sources, particularly different sectors of the Catalan administration. The output of doctoral theses has reached a standstill at around 50 theses per year. However, the output of papers that appeared in the National Citation Report (NCR) database of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) has increased since 1990 at a sustained rate of 20 papers per year, adding up to around 1900 papers, an average of almost three papers per investigator. Nonetheless, the papers that appear in the SCI account for only 20% of the total number of papers produced. Among these other publications, very important reference papers, such as books, maps and review articles, were published during the period covered in the report. Natural-science knowledge in Catalonia continues to be very important and the level is perfectly comparable with those of other European countries that are more advanced in other fields. The area has a great potential for growth in all its aspects, since the conditions are solid in most of the fields, the trends in the last years have been clearly positive, and the opportunities remain very interesting.

Key words

Physical anthropology; Animal Biology; Plant Biology; Botany; Ecology; Plant Physiology; Zoology

Full text

<http://www.iecat.net/recerca/reports/Publicats2Edicio/Rep_06_BioOrgaismes96-02.pdf>