

Aims & Scope

Biogeosciences (BG) is an international scientific journal dedicated to the publication and discussion of research articles, short communications and review papers on all aspects of the interactions between the biological, chemical and physical processes in terrestrial or extraterrestrial life with the geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere. The objective of the journal is to cut across the boundaries of established sciences and achieve an interdisciplinary view of these interactions. Experimental, conceptual and modelling approaches are welcome.

Biogeosciences covers the following fields:

- Biodiversity and ecosystem function
- Evolutionary ecology
- Environmental microbiology
- Biogeochemistry and global elemental cycles
- Biogeochemistry and gas exchange
- Biomineralization, microbial weathering and sedimentation
- Interactions between microbes, organic matter sediments and rocks
- Biogeophysics
- Earth system sciences and response to global changes
- Palaeogeobiology, including origin and evolution of life, evolution of the biosphere, sedimentary records, and the development and use of proxies
- Astrobiology and Exobiology

Biogeosciences has an innovative two-stage publication process which involves a scientific discussion forum and exploits the full potential of the Internet to:

- foster scientific discussion;
- enhance the effectiveness and transparency of scientific quality assurance;
- enable rapid publication;
- make scientific publications freely accessible.

In the first stage, papers that pass a rapid pre-selection by one of the editors are immediately published on the **Biogeosciences Discussions (BGD)** website. They are then subject to the Interactive Public Discussion, during which the referees' comments (anonymous or attributed), additional short comments by other members of the scientific community (attributed) and the authors' replies are also published in **BGD**. In the second stage, the peer-review process is completed and, if accepted, the final revised papers are published in **BG**. To ensure publication precedence for authors, and to provide a lasting record of scientific discussion, **BGD** and **BG** are both ISSN-registered, permanently archived and fully citable.

Publication Policy

Biogeosciences (BG):

- Distribution via Internet, paper copies, and on CD-ROM.
- Free of charge online access to all articles.
- Typesetting/composing of all articles in "Journal Style".
- No extra charges for colour illustrations and supplementary material (e.g. movies and data sets).
- Efficient new way of publishing special issues.
- Personalized copyright.
- Publication of top quality revised papers emerging from an innovative two-stage process of peer-review, publication and interactive discussion involving **BGD**.

Biogeosciences Discussions (BGD):

- Rapid publication of high quality manuscripts as discussion papers.
- Efficient access peer-review involving technical corrections but no further revision before acceptance/rejection.
- Interactive Public Discussion: immediate non-peer-reviewed publication of referee comments, author comments, and additional short comments by any member of the community alongside the discussion paper.
- Permanent archiving and accessibility of discussion papers together with the interactive comments.
- Individual citability of every discussion paper and interactive comment.

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BG Print: ISSN 1726-4170
BG Online: ISSN 1726-4189
BGD Print: ISSN 1810-6277
BGD Online: ISSN 1810-6285

Biogeosciences



Interactive Open Access Journal of the
European Geosciences Union

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Biogeosciences and Biogeosciences Discussions are published by Copernicus GmbH on behalf of the European Geosciences Union.

Peer-Review & Publication

The BG publication process uses the latest developments in computers and the web to provide rapid publication at low cost and a high standard of peer-review. Articles are provided free to the web and are publicized by an efficient alert service.

Submission and Initial Screening

Papers under review are first published in BGD. This ensures that new results are not delayed by the review process but can be discussed by the community as soon as possible. A manuscript sent to the Editorial Office first goes to a Topical Editor who checks that it is suitable for BG. If necessary he may contact potential reviewers for comments. He may also suggest technical corrections needed before publication in BGD.

Publication in Biogeosciences Discussions

The authors make any technical corrections, the paper is typeset by the Copernicus Production Office, proof-read by the authors and published immediately in BGD. From this point on the paper and any published discussion is fully citable.

Public Peer-Review and Interactive Public Discussion

The paper is sent to two or more reviewers for formal review. At the same time the alert service informs people worldwide of the new paper and it is open for eight weeks of Interactive Public Discussion. During this time, Referee Comments, Author Comments and Short Comments by members of the scientific community are published alongside the discussion paper. At the end of the period, the authors have to respond with final comments.

Completion of Peer-Review

On the basis of the reviews and discussion the Topical Editor decides whether to accept, reject or return the paper for revision. In the latter case the Topical Editor may check with the reviewers that the revised paper is satisfactory.

Publication in Biogeosciences

Accepted papers are typeset, proof-read by the authors and published on the Biogeosciences website with links to the BGD paper and discussion. All publications (original and final papers, and the interactive discussion) are permanently archived and remain freely accessible to the public via the Internet. Printed and CD volumes of BG are available at low cost.

Online + Open Access Publishing

Competence + Creativity

The EGU is a signatory of the Berlin Open Access Declaration of 2003, the largest scientific association in Europe for the geosciences and planetary and space sciences encompassing more than 60000 scientists worldwide, and a publisher of scientific journals for more than 20 years. This guarantees the most up to date publications and the highest standards in editorial competence and quality of production.

Public Peer-Review + Interactive Public Discussion

The EGU has extended the traditional peer-review process by adding the concepts of an "Public Peer-Review", i.e. the comments of the reviewers, anonymous or attributed, are published together with the article on the web, and of "Interactive Public Discussion", i.e. after having passed a rapid access peer-review process manuscripts submitted to EGU two-stage-journals will be published first of all in the "Discussion" part of the website of that journal being then subject to Interactive Public Discussion initiated by alerting the corresponding scientific community. The results of the Public Peer-Review and of the Interactive Public Discussion are then used for the final evaluation of the manuscript by the Editor and, eventually, for its publication on the website of the actual journal.

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BG Statistics

ISI Journal Citation Index:

Impact Factor 2005 = available in summer 2006

Published Articles in 2005: 28 (BG), 57 (BGD)