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Dear *Ecology* Editors,

I am submitting the manuscript, “Comparing influence of ecology journals using citation-based indices: making sense of a multitude of metrics” for consideration in *Ecology*. I examine the citation patterns of 110 ecology journals using 11 popular metrics of journal influence including the Journal Impact Factor, Eigenfactor, Article Influence, and h-index. I discuss what can be learned from each metric and how different audiences, including researchers, publishers, and librarians, can use particular methods for specific purposes. This represents a novel contribution to the field of ecology and bibliometrics and I expect this article to be of interest to a broad audience, even beyond ecologists.

The information garnered from this paper contributes to our knowledge of bibliometrics in addition to furthering our understanding of publishing and citation practices in ecology. I found that *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution*, *and Systematics, Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, and *Ecology Letter*s were the most influential journals across the 5 metrics on a per article basis. The ranking of journals shifted considerably when evaluated on total scientific influence rather than influence on a per article basis. *Ecology* ranked well across all metrics and was the 2nd most influential ecology journal overall, as indicated by the Eigenfactor. The information garnered from this study contributes to existing knowledge of bibliometrics and represents the first comprehensive evaluation of citation patterns in ecology. I believe that *Ecology* is the most appropriate venue for publication due to the large, diverse ecology readership and that it will be well received by this audience.

This manuscript represents original research performed by the stated author and I agree with the contents of the manuscript. No part of the manuscript has been published elsewhere, nor is it in consideration for publication elsewhere. All research not carried out by the author is duly cited. I hope that this manuscript is well received and deemed appropriate for *Ecology*.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Hocking