Title:

Little transparency and equity in scientific awards for early and mid-career researchers in ecology and evolution

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Author Contributions:

ML: Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Data curation, Visualization, Writing - Original draft preparation, Writing - Reviewing and Editing, Funding acquisition; UA: Investigation, Data curation, Writing - Reviewing and Editing; BA: Investigation, Data curation, Writing- Reviewing and Editing; JR: Investigation, Data curation, Writing - Reviewing and Editing; ASM: Investigation, Data curation, Writing - Reviewing and Editing; CEL: Investigation, Data curation, Writing - Reviewing and Editing; SN: Formal Analysis, Supervision, Writing - Reviewing and Editing.

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ML received funding from the European Society for Evolutionary Biology (ESEB). The funder had no role in study design, data collection, data analyses, visualisation, or interpretation. ML is a regular member of ESEB and a Chair of the Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Society for Open Reproducible and Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (SORTEE). UA is a member of ESEB, SSE, AES and SORTEE. BA is a SORTEE member. SN is a member of ESEB and SORTEE. Apart of this, all authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Abstract

Scientific awards can shape scientific careers, helping secure jobs and grants. Awards also have a potential to reinforce the "Matthew Effect" and the quest for "novelty" in science when eligibility and assessment criteria give preference to nominees with traditional careers and to "excellent" research. As such, recognition awards for early and mid-career researchers can contribute to the lack of intersectional diversity at the senior levels and in elite networks of scientists. To assess the status quo and historical trends, we evaluated "best researcher" awards and "best paper" early and mid-career awards from broad-scope international journals and societies in ecology and evolution. Specifically, we collated information on eligibility rules and assessment criteria and quantified historical gender biases in the lists of past winners. Our results reveal that, overall, few awards foster equitable access and assessment. Although many awards now explicitly allow extensions of the eligibility period for significant career interruptions, there is a general lack of transparency in terms of assessment and consideration of other differences in access to opportunities and resources among junior researchers. Strikingly, Open Science practices were valued in only one award. By highlighting instances of desirable award characteristics, we hope this work will nudge award committees to shift from simple but non-equitable award policies and practices towards strategies enhancing inclusivity and diversity. Such shift would benefit not only these at the early and mid-career stages, but the whole research community. It is also an untapped opportunity to reward Open Science practices, promoting transparent and robust science.

Keywords: research policy, equity, open science, cumulative advantage, research awards, , science societies, editorial boards, journals, unconscious bias, homophily

Introduction

Academic careers are built on recognition. Research awards and prizes are both the pinnacles and accelerators for academic careers. As awards rise profiles and confer credibility to individual researchers, they can be powerful drivers enabling access to resources, such as jobs, funding, and collaborations [1]. In the world of limited resources, major scientific awards not only propel individual careers, but also reinforce existing biases [2].

Globally, major prizes are awarded to a relatively small and interconnected group of people, who often receive multiple awards [3]. This group is not representative of the broader population of researchers. Much has been written on how top scientific trophies, like the Nobel Prize, are biased towards men [4] and white people [5] rom developed countries and well-funded institutions in the Global North [6]. Although recent studies across disciplines reported some progress towards gender parity across the senior-lever awards, analyses also reveal that the progress has been generally slow [7–9].

There are many potential reasons for the unsatisfactory progress towards reducing the gender and other biases in senior-level awards, one being the lack of suitable candidates. Low proportion of women, and other historically underrepresented groups, in senior and leadership positions in academia, stems from many structural inequalities and disparities in academic recognition and career progression [10]. The cumulative nature of academic recognition, where differences accumulate over time, has been termed "The Matthew Effect", which originated from a verse in the New Testament (Matthew 25:29) [2]. Thus, early biases can have large downstream effect and ultimately contribute to driving minorities out of academia or relegating them to less prestigious roles and slower career tracks [11,12].

This rises a new question: are early- and mid-career academic awards equitable? These awards provide initial recognition by the scientific community, increase research visibility and impact, build confidence and sense of belonging, expand collaborative and social networks [13]. As such, they can open or reinforce access to the "elite circle" senior roles, with all the associated benefits, and allow the recipients to stay on an a fast-track academic career path [3]. If odds are stacked against minorities from early on, the biases in these awards could magnify inequalities [1].

There are several ways in which early and mid-career research awards may lack equity and contribute to the low diversity and biased representation in the upper echelons of science. These potential factors can be roughly divided into these relating to access or assessment.

The access can be unequitable if eligibility cut-offs (usually expressed in years since PhD) do not consider special circumstance that affect academic career progression, such as career breaks, part-time work, chronic health issues, or disability. Researchers with non-traditional research profile or personal characteristics may lack confidence to self-nominate [14], particularly if the past winners are not diverse, implying bias against minorities. Minority candidates may be also less likely to be nominated for awards by others, as the research contributions of underrepresented groups are more likely to go underrecognized [15,16]. This can transpire especially in the phrasing of the nomination or support letters [17–20].

Lack of transparency related to the assessment may breed distrust in the equitability of how prizes are awarded. Undisclosed identity of the assessors, and lack of details of the selection process and selection criteria, could all contribute to the concerns that the decisions might be affected by many of the implicit biases rampant in the academia and in the broader community (e.g., [21]). Bold and broad statements about "outstanding contributions" and "scientific excellence" in award descriptions may have no meaning or even negative implications, distracting from the robustness, transparency, replication, and impacts outside academia [22]. They also ignore the circumstances in which research was performed and the large differences between individuals in access to research opportunities. If consideration is given to the availability of funds, mentoring, infrastructure, materials, safety, and personal circumstances, the outcomes of award process could become more equitable [23]. Finally, lack of feedback for unsuccessful applications could hinder those who may not have access to high quality mentoring and support, further reducing their likelihood of success in the future applications.

This work addressed three objectives: 1) to describe the status quo in terms of eligibility and assessment criteria of international individual research and publication recognition awards relevant to early and mid-career researchers in ecology and evolutionary biology, 2) to assess progress in achieving gender equity among the award winners, 3) to communicate the need for improving awards policies, and how this can be done – ultimately making individual awards more equitable and inclusive.

Materials and methods

We pre-registered a detailed plan of this study on OSF (https://osf.io/pwngy/). The Supplementary Methods File describes all alterations to the planned procedures and contains a detailed description of our search, screening, and data extraction.

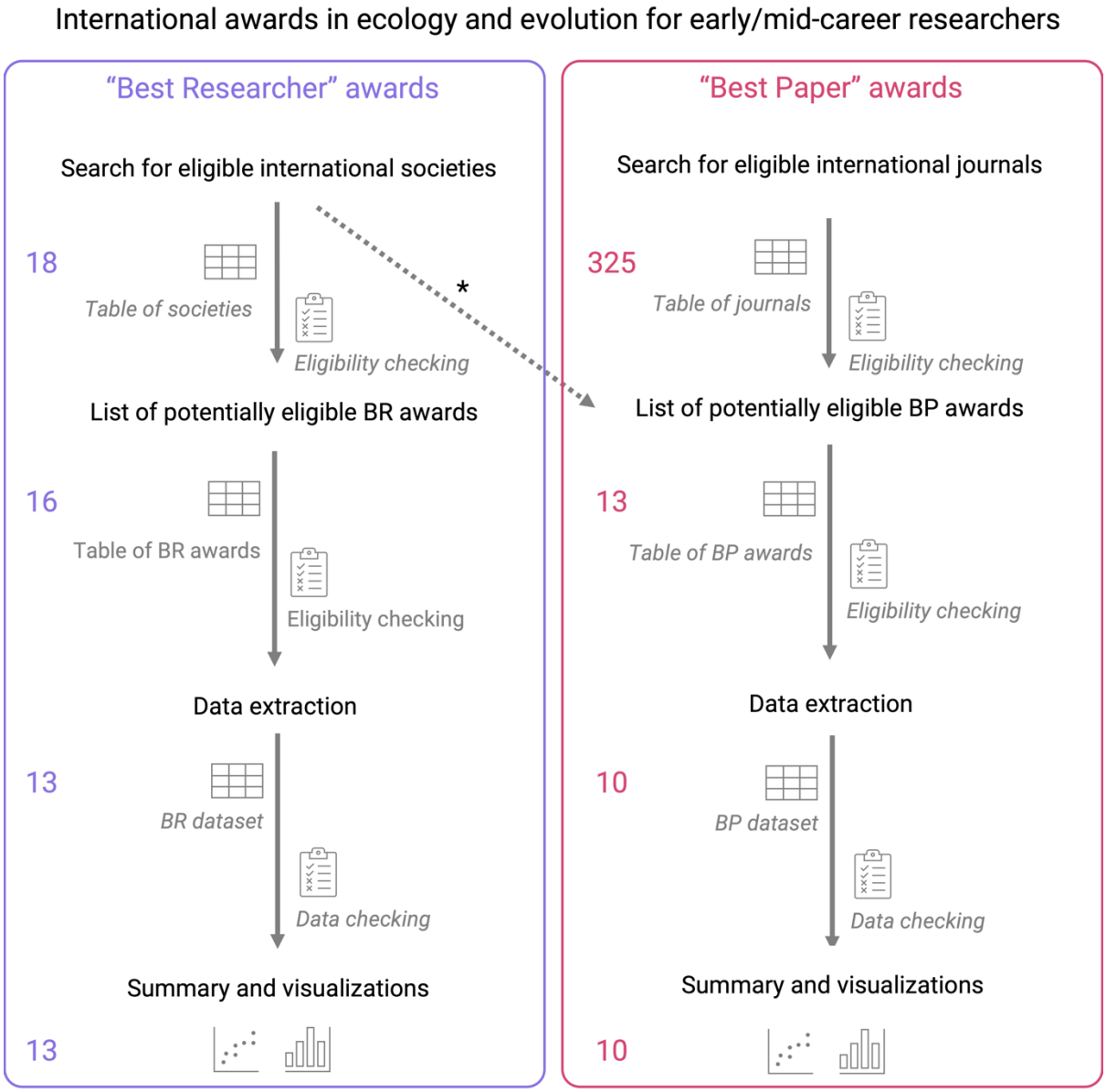

Figure 1.

*Workflow of the project. Two categories of international awards available to early/mid-career researchers were considered: "Best Researcher" and "Best Paper". Violet and magenta numbers show the counts of records (societies / journals / awards) considered at each stage. A dashed arrow with * denotes that some societies can also have "Best Paper" awards, especially if they have their own journals.*

In brief, we aimed to assess a representative sample of broad-relevance international awards in ecology and evolution awarded to early- or mid-career researchers for either overall achievements or a single publication. As such, we excluded travel awards, awards specifically given for teaching, outreach, presentations, awards for minority groups, and awards where only a project proposal is assessed. Figure 1 represents our workflow. We started from creating lists of potentially eligible international societies and journals. We then checked if any of these award prizes fit our pre-defined criteria. The "Best Researcher" awards category included prizes recognizing overall achievements, and the "Best Paper" awards category included prizes recognizing a single published article, of an early to mid-career researchers in broad fields of ecology and / or evolution. For each award, its eligibility for inclusion was confirmed at the initial phase of data extraction, and if deemed not eligible, an award was excluded, and no further data was extracted.

From the eligible awards we extracted information on the awarding body (usually a learned society and / or journal), including whether it had policies or organisational structures for supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We then extracted information on the award, including its name, type, target career stage of eligible applicants, whether eligibility criteria are flexible and whether assessment is conducted relative to opportunity. We coded whether published assessment criteria are vague or detailed / specific, if they consider multiple dimensions of contributions to science and research excellence (e.g., engagement in outreach, mentoring, reviewing, advocacy), whether any Open Science practices (data, code, materials sharing, preregistration, transparency of reporting, etc.) are explicitly included in the assessment criteria, and if requests for feedback on unsuccessful applications are allowed. We also coded whether applicants can self-nominate, whether nomination or support letters are required, and whether the award information specifically encourages historically underrepresented groups to apply. Finally, we checked if information was available on who will be assessing the application, and on the diversity of the past applicants.

We assigned gender to the names of the past winners listed on the award websites, based on the first names, pronouns, or images, as available. All extracted data was cross-checked by a second researcher. We summarised our data collection process in tables and visualised key extracted data in graphs using the *tidyverse* package [24] in R computational environment [25].

Results

From 10 eligible awarding societies and 9 journals, we collected data on 13 "Best Researcher" awards and 10 "Best Paper" awards. Figure 2 presents the overview of the awards in terms of their disciplinary focus, geographical range, EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) policies or structures of the awarding body, and the target career stage of the potential awardees. Detailed breakdowns of this data by award can be found in Table S7 and Table S8. Figures S1 and S2 present the distributions of the ranges of years for which awardee information is available for the included "Best Researcher" and "Best Paper" awards, respectively. Overall, the awards are evenly distributed between ecology and evolution, with some differences between the two award types when it comes to presumed geographical distribution (some "Best Researcher" were linked to regional societies, but all journals were global) and societies being more likely to have EDI-related policies and structures. The target audience of the "Best Paper" awards is almost exclusively limited to students and early-career researchers within a few years of their degree. We present our main findings regarding other award characteristics separately for each award type.

"Best Researcher" Awards

Out of 13 awards in this category, 8 allowed to extend the period of eligibility (usually defined as number of years since PhD) in case of significant career interruptions (Figure 3). Only four allowed candidates to self-nominate, two did not require nomination or recommendation letters, which usually are part of the process of nominating a candidate for an award. Only two award descriptions explicitly encouraged historically underrepresented groups to apply.

When it comes to transparency, for six of the awards we were able to find information on who will be assessing the applications, but none of the awards provided summary data on the characteristics of the past applicants (assessment process transparency in Figure 3). Similarly, for only 3 awards assessment criteria extended beyond one sentence of vague generalizations. Thus, most awards are awarded for "significant contributions", "excellent research", "outstanding research", "important scientific breakthrough", "meritorious contributions", "creative approaches".

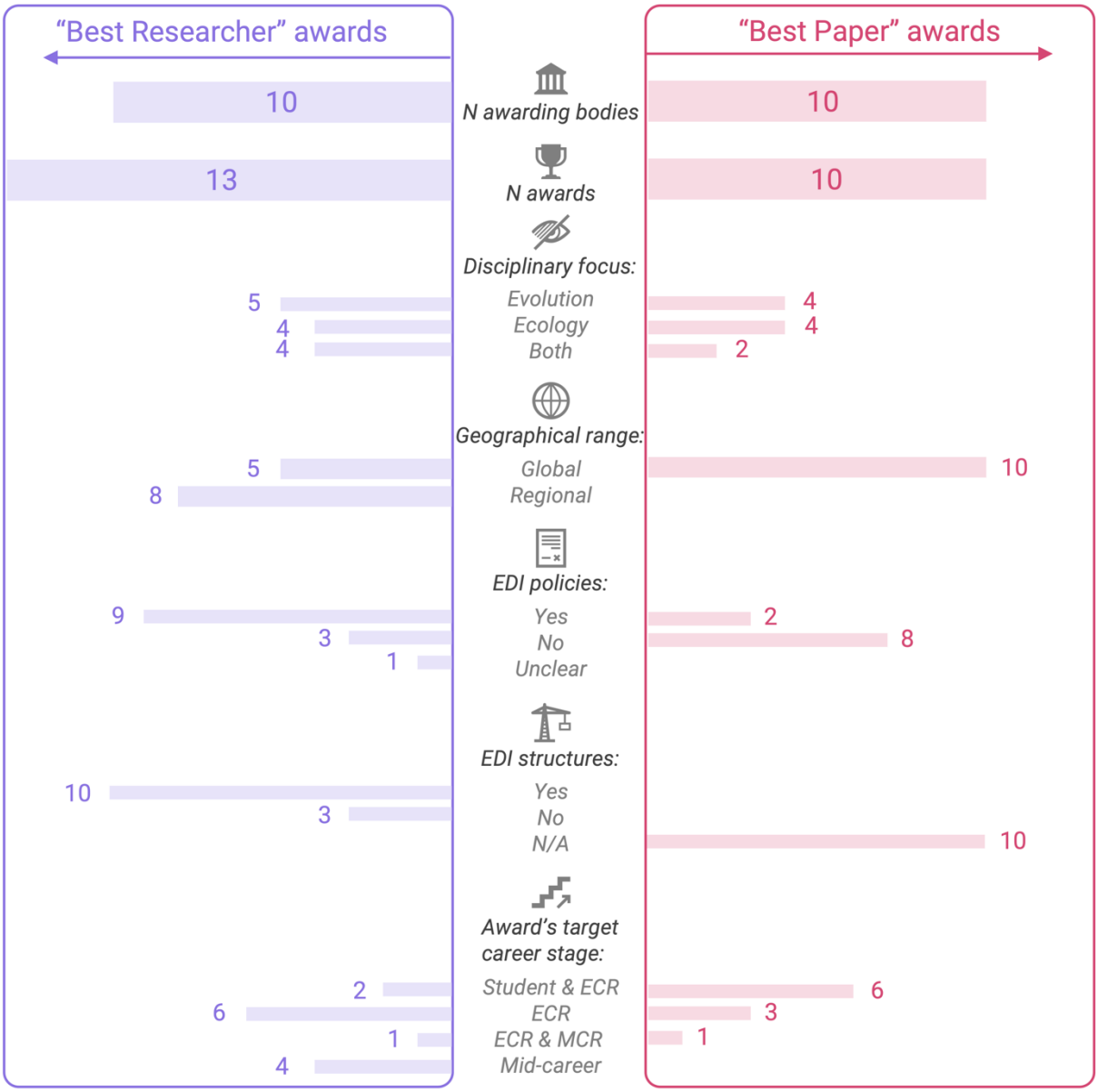

Figure 2.

Main characteristics of the included "Best Researcher" and "Best Paper" awards for early- and mid-career researchers in ecology and evolution. EDI stands for "Equity, Diversity and Inclusion", N/A for "not assessed" (we did not expect journals to have dedicated organisational structures for supporting EDI), ECR for "Early-Career Researchers", MCR is "Mid-Career Researchers".

Five award descriptions noted that contributions outside pure research activities will be also considered, such as reviewing, mentoring, outreach, teaching. Here are a few examples:

- "The ideal candidate will be one whose career embodies the values of the society, for example in mentoring, outreach, and teaching." (SMBE Early-Career Excellence Award and SMBE Mid-Career Excellence Award).

- "Individuals whose research and writing illuminate principles of evolutionary biology and an enhanced aesthetic appreciation of natural history will merit special consideration." (ASN Distinguished Naturalist Award).
- "For their excellent biological research, and contribution to the wider natural history community, e.g., editorial and / or committee / policy work / public engagement)." (LSL The Bicentenary Medal).

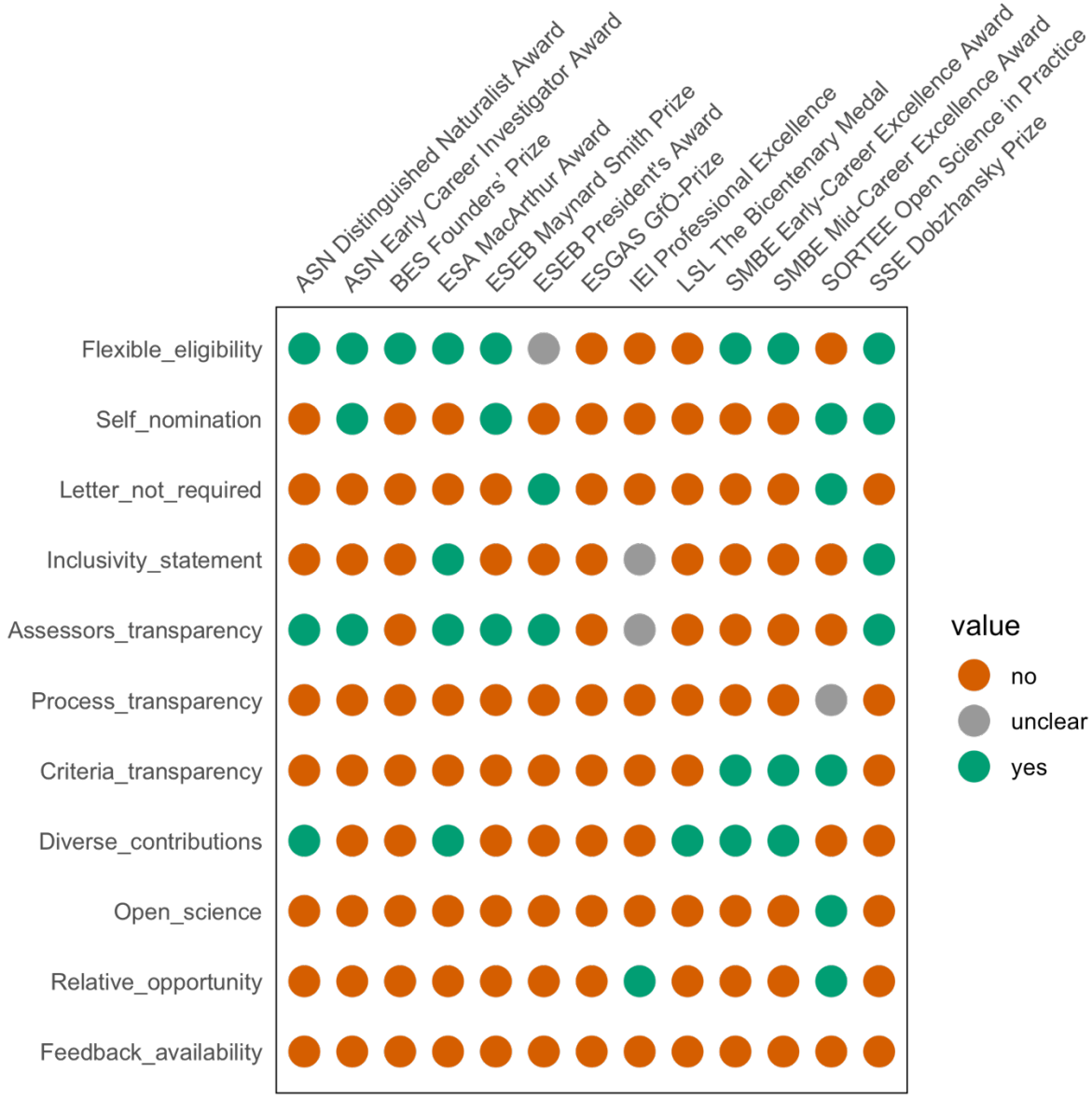

Figure 3.

Assessments of the included "Best Researcher" awards for their equity, transparency, and recognition of Open Science practices (detailed descriptions of extracted data are available in Table S3). We considered "yes" answers as potentially beneficial for EDI. Award names are preceded by the abbreviated name of a granting organization.

There was only one case where commitment to Open Science practices was recognised. Rather unsurprisingly, this was a new award established in 2021 by the Society for Open Reliable Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology (SORTEE). The purpose of this Open Science in Practice Award is solely to recognise and promote such practices: "*This award aims to recognize and reward researchers who have endeavoured to implement best practices in Open Science (OS) within their research workflow, thereby increasing the transparency and reproducibility of their research activities.*"

At the same time, for only two awards we found statements suggesting that applications will be considered in relation to the available opportunity and barriers that the candidates faced. For example, "*The IRPE Prize (International Recognition of Professional Excellence) honours a young ecologist … and / or who must work under particularly difficult conditions*" or (from application documents for SORTEE Open Science in Practice Award) *"…limited by financial constraints, access to certain resources, bureaucratic restrictions, or any other barrier*". Finally, none of the award descriptions mentioned that any feedback on unsuccessful applications can be provided to interested applicants.

In the distribution of awardee's gender across the decades, male bias is clearly noticeable before year 2010 (Figure 4; see Figure S1 for the range of years of data for each award and Figure S2 for gender bias data as raw counts per decade). After that time point the gender bias tends to be reduced or, in some cases, even reversed (SMBE Early-career Excellence Award).

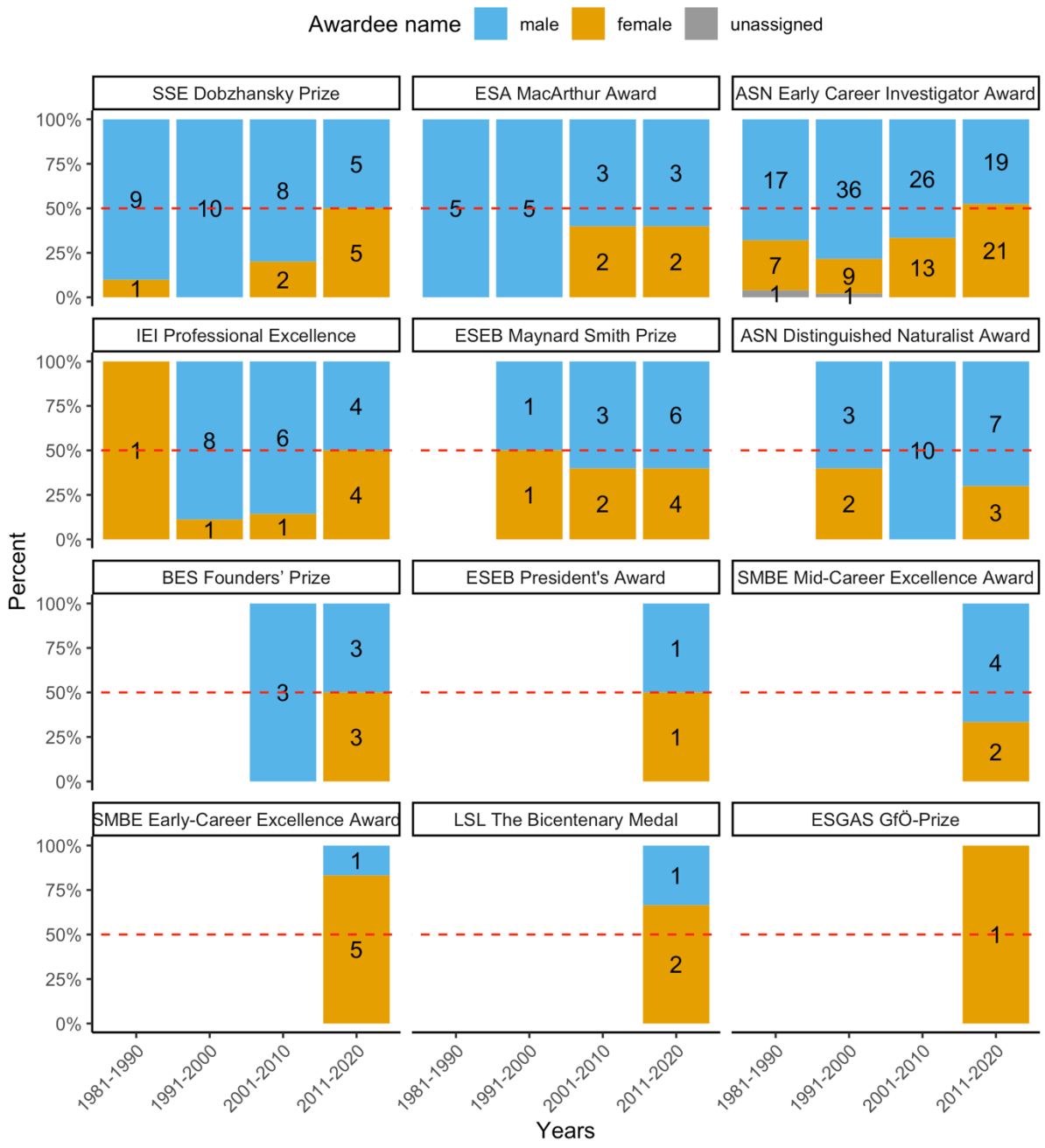

Figure 4.

Plot of the percentages of the female and male names for included "Best Researcher" awards across decades. Award names are preceded by the abbreviated name of a granting organization. Numbers on the bars are counts of awardees.

"Best Paper" Awards

Out of 10 awards in this category, only 4 allowed to extend the period of eligibility in special circumstances (Figure 5). In three of these cases, award eligibility was only conditional on the published research being based on a graduate student work. Inflexible eligibility was usually based on a fixed number of years after the PhD when the paper had to be published or biological age of the applicant (under 40 for the George Mercer Award from the Ecological Society of America.

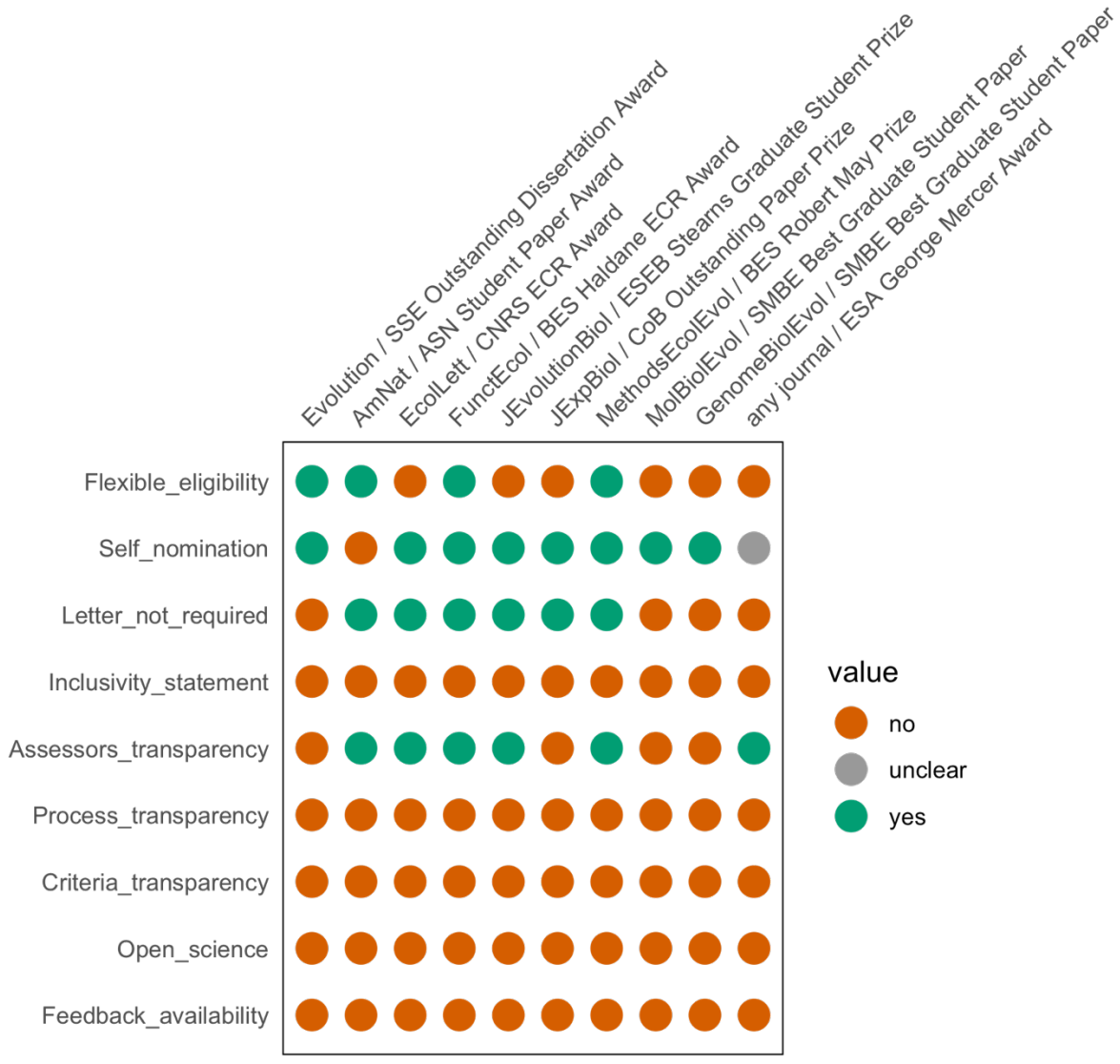

Figure 5.

Assessments of the included "Best Paper" awards for their equity, transparency, and recognition of Open Science practices (detailed descriptions of extracted data are available in Table S6). We considered "yes" answers as potentially beneficial for EDI. Award names are preceded by the abbreviated name of a granting journal / organization.

Young researchers could nominate themselves for 8 out of 10 awards, typically by ticking a box on the manuscript submission form. As such, in most cases, there was no need to submit any additional documentation. Still, nomination or recommendation letters were required for four of the awards. We did not find any expressions of encouragement for members of historically underrepresented groups to nominate themselves for the awards.

The assessment of the eligible manuscripts is usually conducted by the journal editors, and, given that the latter are listed on the journal websites, we recorded this as a sufficient information for 6 journals. For all awards, we found no publicly available summary data on the characteristics of the past applicants (process transparency in Figure 3) or assessment criteria beyond vague terms of novelty, importance, outstanding research, and simply being the "best paper", which perfectly matched our pre-defined name of the award category. None of the descriptions noted the importance of following Open Science principles or offered providing feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Historical gender bias is clear in the early years of the only award in this category that has been running for more than 15 years – the George Mercer Award from the Ecological Society of America (4 decades of data, any journal; Figure 6; see Figure S3 for the range of years of data for each award and Figure S4 for gender bias data as raw counts per decade). In the last decade, the gender gap has narrowed, similarly to what is a general pattern in the remaining, more recent, journal awards.

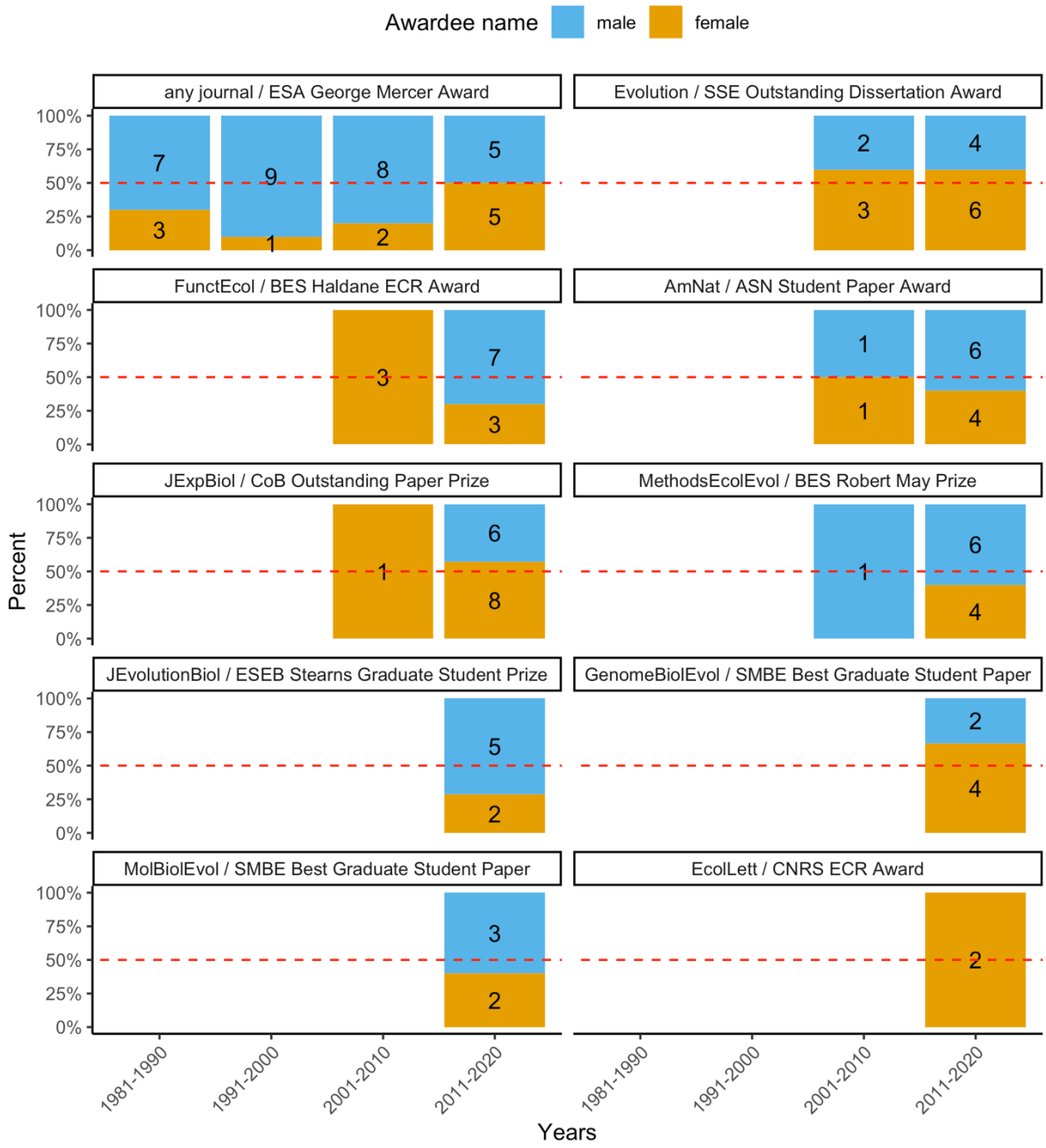

Figure 6.

Plot of the percentages of the female and male names for included "Best Paper" awards across decades. Award names are preceded by the abbreviated name of a granting journal. Numbers on the bars are counts of awardees.

Discussion

Our survey of early and mid-career awards in ecology and evolution returned somewhat disappointing results on the equity in access and assessment. Although most of the assessed awards provided some flexibility in terms of the eligibility timing, very few encouraged researchers from underrepresented minorities to apply, judged research outcomes relatively to opportunity, or considered diverse types of research contributions. Assessment criteria were generally obscure and did not mention research transparency, replicability, or robustness. Despite this, we observed a trend towards decreasing gender gap in the cohorts of past winners across the decades. Below, we will first discuss our findings in the context of the literature, acknowledge limitations and future directions for research, and suggest recommendations how to make early- and mid-career recognition awards more equitable and transparent.

Awards characteristics

There is a paucity of published surveys of research awards focusing on the characteristics potentially contributing to equitable and transparent access and assessment. This stands in a stark contrast to a growing number of studies quantifying biases in the lists of past winners, usually in relation to gender. Senior-level awards receive much attention (e.g. [26]), as do awards specific to a geographic locations (e.g. North America [9,27], English-speaking countries [28]) and / or discipline (e.g., [7,29,30]) . These studies often report significant underrepresentation of females for the most prestigious awards, and increasing parity in less prestigious awards, especially for early-career researchers, in line with our findings.

An increasing number of societies proclaim their commitment to increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion, EDI [28]. Indeed, the majority of the international societies in our study had EDI-related policies and structures (Figure 2). An EDI representative or a committee dedicated to increasing the representation and support of under-represented groups could monitor and advocate for changes towards greater equity in the recognition awards [31]. Although we cannot directly assess whether EDI policies and structures can influence how prizes are awarded, the "Best Researcher" awards from the few societies without EDI structures did not score well on the features we considered as potentially positive for the EDI (one or two "yes" in Figure 3).

We made two additional, unplanned, observations. First, there are fewer relevant awards targeting mid-career than these available to early-career researchers: 5 vs. 9 in "Best Researcher" awards and 1 vs. 10 in "Best Paper" awards categories, respectively (for a few awards both career stages are eligible; Tables S7 and S8). This indicates existence of a gap in research recognition opportunities for mid-career researchers. Second, we noted a stark lack of gender diversity in award names, as 7 out of 7 "named" awards are honouring white male scientists (an additional one was recently renamed to a neutral name; Table S2). It is remarkable, given that award naming has been implicated in reinforcing the stereotypes of who the successful scientist is [32] and that female academics are less likely to win awards named after men than awards named after women [33].

Limitations and future directions for research

Our survey of the characteristics of the awards, beyond gender bias, is the first of this kind, to our knowledge. As such, the collected data has limitations when it comes to generalizing its results. First, our disciplinary scope was limited to ecology and evolution. Thus, we excluded more general awards and those dedicated to specific biological sub-disciplines. Second, we only focused on international awards and excluded a vast pool of country- and institutional-level awards. These two restrictions have been necessary due to time constrains. We assumed that international and general ecology / evolution awards will be most representative for the early-and mid-career research awards and that these awards are also likely to be considered as prestigious (at least more prestigious than country or institution-level awards). Nevertheless, future work could be directed to provide a more fine-grained picture of a landscape across sub-disciplines and countries, similarly to what has been happening in the surveys of gender bias in award winners.

Gender bias has been at the centre of attention when it comes to under-representation and under-recognition in academia (e.g., [4,7–9,26,31,34]). In contrast, there are very few studies on research recognition focusing on biases other than gender, such as race and ethnicity (e.g., [35]), intersectional diversity (more than one diversity aspect, e.g., [36,37]), and none on disability. Such studies are difficult because detailed demographic information is seldom collected and shared. It is relatively easy to derive person's gender from a name or image, where available (we acknowledge that it is harder for non-binary people and non-European names [38].

However, the data on the many other dimensions of diversity, such as ethnicity, caring responsibilities, disability, employment and educational history, access to resources, is more subtle, complicated, and hidden [39].

Finally, what changes can be made to the awards themselves to move towards addressing biases other than gender? Our survey already highlighted some instances of desirable practices, such as accommodating career interruptions, assessing achievements relative to opportunity, and rewarding Open Research practices, in a sample of 23 awards. It also revealed that there is still much to be done. We next provide 12 general recommendations for improvements.

Figure 7.

Striving to make early and mid-career awards more equitable – steps to improvement.

Recommendations

Our suggestions for improvement are generally derived from existing recommendations for academic assessments (such as DORA [40], publications [23,28,41,42]) and personal experiences. Importantly, they also align with recommendations collated recently by early- and mid-career researchers participating in a series of workshops held by the Australian Academy of Science [43] (go.nature.com/39j5yus) and by a group of Latina and Black researchers [10]. Uniquely, our

suggestions also include points related to transparency and robustness of the science itself. Figure 7 shows our 12 steps (literally, but without implying specific order) on where we still need to strive in terms of equity, diversity, and better research practices. Below, we discuss these steps in detail, highlighting why and how we can address problems with the current academic recognition prizes. The recommendations are grouped into Applications, Assessment and Outcomes stages.

Applications:

1. Encourage historically underrepresented groups to apply. Recognising all types of researchers that work at all levels of the academia is only possible if a representative pool of applicants is considered for an award. This can be achieved by both advertising broadly [28], but also by providing explicit encouragement for the groups that are systemically disadvantaged and / or discriminated against, including women, racial or ethnic minorities, non-English native speakers, persons with disabilities or caring responsibilities, these from developing countries and working in institutions without historical international standing. Such message would act as signalling that EDI is taken seriously by the awarding body.
2. Adjust eligibility timelines for career interruptions. Using hard caps for applicants' biological or academic age penalizes individuals with non-traditional careers, whose career has been interrupted or slowed down by personal or external circumstances [44]. We note that a growing number of awarding bodies allows for flexible eligibility timelines in "exceptional circumstances" – flexibility should become the norm, rather than an exception.
3. Retire nomination / support letters. These letters are subjective narratives that manifest recognition others have endowed upon a researcher [45–47]. They specifically reflect privilege of access to the old boys' networks, institutional prestige, and other circumstantial contexts [3,44]. Support and nomination letters drain precious time from the senior academics, who may be reluctant to heartfully endorse applicants considered as unlikely winners, or delegate drafting the letters to the applicants themselves [48,49]. Thus, rather than providing objective assessments these letters can compound existing biases [35,46].
4. Allow self-nomination. Self-nomination circumvents the problem of the access to suitable nominators, also that of the prestige and influence of the nominators [14,35].

However, when self-nomination involves writing unstructured narrative letters about yourself, they would give advantage to these with excessive self-confidence, mastery of English language and storytelling, rather than the actual quality of research. As such, a simpler and standardised format, such as proposed structured CVs [41], could level the playing field.

Assessment:

5. Value Open Science practices and diverse contributions. Open data, open code, and transparent description of methodological details can represent not only the trustworthiness of science [50], but also a valuable academic contribution. Following these and other Open Science practices (e.g., preregistrations, self-corrections, use of reporting checklists) can lead to more robust and replicable science [51]. For "Best Researcher" awards, assessment could explicitly value contributions beyond producing publications, such as mentoring, collaborations, community service and advocacy [43].
6. Make assessment criteria transparent. Pervasive use of broad terms, such as "outstanding contributions", for describing the criteria for the award can make application process more daunting for less confident applicants. It can also mask implicit biases in the assessment process [23]. By abandoning the rhetoric of generic "excellence" [23], and revealing how the work will be assessed with objective pre-specified criteria [10,42], we can encourage more diverse applicants, and robust and impactful science [52].
7. Ensure assessors are diverse and tuned to EDI. Diverse award panels are more likely to select diverse winners [28]. The lists of selection panel members could be made publicly available to signal commitment to promoting diversity. The panels should be aware of EDI policies and their own biases, ideally working with EDI committees supporting and advocating for historically underrepresented groups [10,14].
8. Assess achievements relatively to opportunity. Given pervasive inequalities in access to opportunities and resources in academia, seriously considering systemic barriers and biases faced by the applicants may level the playing field for these starting they careers from underprivileged positions [23,32]. It also alleviates impact of nonlinear / interrupted academic careers paving the way for fairer evaluation of people with

diverse backgrounds [43,53]. To achieve this, award applications could include a brief section on the barriers or constrains the applicant faced in their research.

Outcomes:

9. Collect data on intersectional diversity of the applicants. Robust data could support development of effective policies for EDI [11,54]. As journals are finally starting to collect demographic data for their own purposes [55], learned societies could follow the suit by encouraging members, and award applicants, to self-identify in relation to at least their gender, race, or ethnicity (ideally also on other intersectional aspects of diversity or opportunity) [35]. For the "Best Paper" awards, journal-collected intersectional diversity data could be made available to the awarding bodies, possibly complemented by additional information sourced from the nominated authors, e.g., on their financial, logistical or time constrains, to equitably assess their research achievements, relatively to opportunities.
10. Report aggregated intersectional diversity data on past applicants. A lack of diversity data currently hinders analyses on whether the award recipients are representative of the pool of the applicants [56,57]. While publishing individual data is not advisable due to privacy concerns, aggregated anonymous information could be published for each round of a given award. Such data is needed for meta-research on the biases and trends in scientific awards [9] and can be used to justify calls for action [14].
11. Aim to address potential biases other than gender. For many early- and mid-career awards it is time to move the equity target beyond the gender bias. Gender-related disadvantage in academia is compounded by race, ethnicity, caring responsibilities, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, geographic location, language background, disability, etc. [10,35,39,58,59]. These biases need more visibility and action.
12. Offer constructive feedback. Brief but constructive feedback would allow the unsuccessful applicants to better prepare for the next application cycle [60]. To save time, it can be provided on request only, but such option should be clearly advertised to the applicants. Another option is to provide support to applicants through workshops on how to write successful applications. Feedback should be also gathered from the applicants and committee members and used for improving all stages of the award application and assessment process [32,42].

Conclusions

Growing awareness of the unconscious biases and systemic barriers to women and other historically under-represented groups can be used to build more equity in the scientific recognition systems. The aim is not to turn research prizes into charity, but to level the playing field. Scientific societies and journal editors have power and freedom to take grassroot actions for redressing historical biases beyond these related to gender. We hope our work will nudge award committees to shift from simple but non-equitable award policies towards strategies promoting inclusivity and diversity – benefiting not only these at early and mid-career stages, but also the whole research community. Finally, we propose an overlaying concept of Open Awards – a movement to ensure equitable access, assessment, and information sharing, in line with broad principles of Open Science, as exemplified by this article.

Data availability statement

All analysed data and code for producing figures are available on GitHub (https://github.com/mlagisz/survey_ecoevo_awards) and the final version will be archived on Zenodo.

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Supporting Information

For:
Little transparency and equity in scientific awards for early and mid-career researchers in ecology and evolution

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Supplementary Methods

Deviations from the registered protocol

We followed the pre-registered protocol with only two modifications: 1) We clarified descriptions of a few of the data extraction items to improve data extraction consistency, and 2) We did not conduct statistical analyses due to very limited sample sizes – both in terms of the small number of eligible awards within each award category and the limited range of years for which data on awardees' gender composition was available (most awards were established within the last 20 years). We note that in our protocol statistical analyses were specified as conditional on the data availability and distribution.

Data searches, selection, and extraction

We collected data on international academic societies / associations and journals representing the research fields of ecology and evolution. We critically assessed two common categories of awards: 1) "Best Researcher" awards recognising the overall body of achievements of a researcher and 2) "Best Paper" awards recognising research contribution contained in a single publication. For each of these two categories of awards we performed a separate search and data extraction, as represented in Figure 1 and described in detailed below. Details of search, screening and data extraction process are provided below for each of these two award categories and in Supplementary Tables S1 to S6.

1. *"Best Researcher" awards*

Search strategy:

We conducted Internet searches on 01/04/2022 using DuckDuckGo.com platform running Google search algorithm with the Region filter set to "All regions" and the search string: "award|prize society|association ecology|evolution" (without quotation marks, note that the Google search algorithm will recognize different forms of these words, including plurals). We screened top 100 Google search hits, sorted by decreasing relevance. We also performed supplementary manual searches by screening the websites containing lists of potentially relevant international learned societies: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_biology_awards and http://www.iaees.org/links/link-societies.asp; accessed on 02/04/2022). We mainly used English in our searches, but also performed supplementary Google searches in Spanish to capture regional societies from South America.

Selection criteria:

- For the "Best Researcher" category, we included awards awarded by international societies to individual researchers for their overall achievements in scientific research. We thus excluded institution-specific awards (e.g., department- or university-level) and country-specific awards, since these are usually restricted to students / staff / academics of a given institution / country (even if it is not explicitly specified in the society's membership information; so, if a name of the society included a country/institution name, we excluded it by default, with an exception made for British Ecological Society, because according to the results of 2021 member survey 49% of its members are international and its "Founders Prize" has been awarded to multiple people outside the UK; similar situation for the Linnean Society of London).
- We focused on societies and awards covering a broad range of studies in ecology and evolution. We thus excluded societies and awards with narrow taxonomic scope (e.g., limited to botany, ornithology, lichenology, human evolution), narrow habitat / geographical scope (e.g., coral reef, single country), or narrow topic scope (e.g., systematics, physiology).

- We included awards targeting early and mid-career researchers, from undergraduate students to postdocs / lecturers or equivalent. We thus excluded awards specifically targeting senior researchers or without any limitations on career stage / academic age.
- We excluded awards that were discontinued.
- We excluded awards that are restricted to applicants from underrepresented groups, e.g., women-only / minorities-only awards.
- We excluded travel awards (awards covering travel or participation costs for conferences / fieldwork / collaborations) and awards where a project proposal is assessed rather than only already completed work or overall achievements.
- We also excluded awards that focus solely on non-research achievements (e.g., outreach, teaching, mentoring), but included awards where a multiple types of contributions to science are considered alongside research achievements.

Eligibility screening

We collated a shortlist of the societies that met our initial criteria (Table S1). For each society we recorded any potentially relevant awards for data extraction (Table S2). This shortlist was cross-checked by a second researcher and disagreements on inclusions were resolved by discussion.

Data extraction

For each award its eligibility for inclusion was confirmed at the initial phase of data extraction, and if deemed not eligible, an award was excluded, and no further data was extracted. We extracted relevant data from the societies' websites or other publicly documents available (e.g., instructions for applicants). We contacted the award committee / contact person for clarifications in several cases where available information was unclear.

We extracted pre-defined key data using a pre-piloted Google Form, which was then converted into a Google Sheet for checking and filling in missing information, as necessary. All extracted data was cross-checked by a second researcher.

We extracted lists of awardees from official award websites and assigned gender to awardee first names based on associated photographs and pronouns, if available, or using

https://api.genderize.io, with probability threshold of >0.5. If main + finalists were provided for each year, we included all these. We did not include shortlisted candidates. We used comments fields to record the original phasing of key information and to record any notes relevant to the extracted data. In data items descriptions and codes, "EDI" stands for "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion", "NA" stands for "Not Applicable".

Overall, the extracted data includes five types of information: general information on the granting body, award eligibility criteria, award assessment criteria, and past awardees (details of all data items are provided in Table S3).

2. *"Best Paper" awards*

Search strategy:

We conducted Internet searches on 01/04/2022 using DuckDuckGo.com platform running Google search algorithm with the Region filter set to "All regions" with and the search string: "award|prize society|association|journal ecology|evolution paper/article/publication" (without quotation marks, note that the Google search algorithm will recognize different forms of these words, including plurals). We screened top 100 Google search hits sorted by decreasing relevance. We also considered the top 50% journals from the Scimago journal ranking (https://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php?category=1105&area=1100&type=j&year=2020; accessed on 23/03/2022). In this search, we aimed for a representative sample of high-quality disciplinary journals.

Selection criteria:

- "Best Paper" (or equivalent) awards, are usually associated with specific journals or publishers, and are often aimed at early career researchers (ECRs). Here, we included awards given to individual ECRs for a single published research contribution, such as a journal publication or theses / dissertation, if published as a journal article.
- We excluded conference-specific awards: "Best Talk", "Best Poster", etc., due to restricted space / time they allow for presentation of a given research study.

- We also excluded institutional awards (e.g., department- or university-level) and country-specific awards, since these are usually restricted to students / staff / academics of a given institution / country.
- We included awards focused on broad studies in ecology and evolution. We thus excluded awards with narrow taxonomic scope (e.g., botany, ornithology, lichenology, human evolution), narrow habitat / geographical scope (e.g., coral reef, country), or narrow topic scope (e.g., systematics, physiology).
- We excluded awards that are discontinued, and awards that are restricted to applicants from underrepresented groups, e.g., women-only / minorities-only awards.

Eligibility screening

We collated a list of the journals or societies that meet our criteria (Table S4). For each eligible journal or society, we recorded any potentially relevant awards for data extraction (Table S5). Eligibility has been cross-checked by a second researcher.

Data extraction

For each award its eligibility for inclusion was confirmed at the initial phase of data extraction, and if deemed not eligible, an award was excluded, and no further data was extracted. We extracted relevant data from the societies' websites or other publicly documents available (e.g., instructions for applicants). We contacted the award committee / contact person for clarifications in several cases where available information was unclear.

We extracted pre-defined key data using a pre-piloted Google Form, which was then converted into a Google Sheet for checking and filling in missing information, as necessary. All extracted data was cross-checked by a second researcher.

We extracted lists of awardees from official award websites and assigned gender to awardee first names based on associated photographs and pronouns, if available, or using https://api.genderize.io, with probability threshold of >0.5. If main winners and finalists were provided for each year, we included all these. We did not include shortlisted candidates. We used comments fields to record the original phasing of key information and to record any

notes relevant to the extracted data. In data items descriptions and codes, “EDI” stands for “Equity, Diversity, Inclusion”, “NA” stands for “Not Applicable”.

Overall, the extracted data includes five types of information: general information on the granting body, award eligibility criteria, award assessment criteria, and past awardees (details of all data items are provided in Table S6).

Finally, for both award categories we checked the extracted data and conducted analyses:

Data checking

Extracted data has been independently cross-checked by second researcher, with workload spread across the research team. Any disagreements or unclear data were resolved via discussion with the original data extractor, with input from additional researchers or clarifications sought from the award committee / contact, as needed.

Analyses

We summarized extracted information separately for “Best Researcher” and “Best Paper” award categories. Specifically, we:

- Used R computational environment for final data cleaning, summaries, analyses, and visualizations, with code versioning via git and open collaboration via GitHub.
- Collated extracted data in tables and summarised in graphs.
- Calculated proportions for each response option for the categorical variables and visualized results for key extracted variables as bar plots of proportions or counts.
- Calculated awardee gender ratios for ten-year windows for each award with at least 10 years of awardee gender data (inferred from lists of awardees, see description of data collection). We visualised temporal trends in gender ratios along the ten-year periods.

Supplementary Results

Table S1

List of societies considered for data extraction in "Best Researcher" award category.

Society name full	Abbre-viated	Webpage	Poten-tially eligible?	Decision comment
European Society for Evolutionary Biology	ESEB	https://eseb.org/	Yes	International, has potentially relevant awards
Society for the Study of Evolution	SSE	http://www.evolutionsociety.org/	Yes	International, has potentially relevant awards
Australasian Evolution Society	AES	https://ausevo.com/	No	No relevant awards
Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	SMBE	https://www.smbe.org/smbe	Yes	International, has potentially relevant awards
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology	SICB	https://sicb.org/	No	No relevant awards
Linnean Society of London	LS	https://www.linnean.org/	Yes	International member base; has a relevant award
American Society of Naturalists	ASN	https://amnat.org/	Yes	International, has potentially relevant awards
European Ecological Federation	EEF	https://www.europeanecology.org/	No	No relevant awards
Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Gesellschaft für Ökologie, GfÖ)	GFO	https://gfoe.org/en	Yes	Has potentially relevant awards
Society for Open Reliable Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology	SORTEE	https://www.sortee.org/	No	No relevant awards, international
The Company of Biologists	CoB	https://www.biologists.com/	Yes	Has a relevant award
International Ecology Institute	ECI	https://www.int-res.com/ecology-institute/eci-home/	Yes	has a relevant award
Ecological Society of America	ESA	https://www.esa.org/	Yes	Has chapters in Canada and Latin America, Asi; has relevant awards
Federation of the Ecological Societies of the Americas	FESA	https://www.esa.org/federation/	No	No relevant awards
East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies	EAFES	http://www.e-eafes.org/EAFES/about.html	No	No relevant awards

Nordic Society Oikos	NSO	https://nordicsocietyoikos.glueup.com/org/nordicsocietyoikos/about/	No	No relevant awards
Ecological Society for Eastern Africa	ESEA	https://www.facebook.com/theESEA/	No	No relevant awards
British Ecological Society	BES	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org	Yes	International membership base and relevant international awards

Table S2

Shortlist of potentially eligible "Best Researcher" awards.

Award name	awarded by	webpage	Included	Comment
John Maynard Smith Prize	European Society for Evolutionary Biology	https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/john-maynard-smith-prize/	Yes	
President's Award	European Society for Evolutionary Biology	https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/presidents-award/	Yes	
T. Dobzhansky Prize	Society for the Study of Evolution	http://www.evolutionsociety.org/index.php?module=content&type=user&func=view&pid=13	Yes	
T.H. Huxley Award	Society for the Study of Evolution	http://www.evolutionsociety.org/index.php?module=content&type=user&func=view&pid=18	No	Mainly outreach projects
Edward O. Wilson Naturalist Award	American Society of Naturalists	https://www.amnat.org/announcements/NomEOWilson.html	Yes	
Jasper Loftus-Hills Young Investigator Award	American Society of Naturalists	https://www.amnat.org/announcements/NomYIAforms.html	Yes	Research statement required
GfÖ-Prize	The Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Gesellschaft für Ökologie, GfÖ)	https://gfoe.org/en/gfoe-prize	Yes	
SMBE Early-Career Excellence Award	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	https://www.smbe.org/smbe/AWARDS/FacultyAwards/SMBEEarlyCareerExcellenceAwards.aspx	Yes	Pre-2021 it was called Allan Wilson Junior Award for Independent Research Winner
SMBE Mid-Career Excellence Award	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	https://www.smbe.org/smbe/AWARDS/FacultyAwards/SMBEMidCareerExcellenceAward.aspx	Yes	
Open Science in Practice	Society for Open Reliable Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology	https://www.sortee.org/awards/	Yes	

Early Career Researcher Award	Australasian Evolution Society	http://ausevo.com/prizes/	No	Now only presentation and project-based awards
The Bicentenary Medal	Linnean Society of London	https://www.linnean.org/the-society/medals-awards-prizes-grants/the-bicentenary-medal	Yes	
International Recognition of Professional Excellence	International Ecology Institute	https://www.int-res.com/ecology-institute/irpe-prize/	Yes	No award after 2019, switched from annual to biennial.
Robert H. MacArthur Award	Ecological Society of America	https://www.esa.org/history/2014/01/robert-h-macarthur-award/	Yes	
Marsh Award for Ecologists in Africa	British Ecological Society	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/membership-community/honours-awards-and-prizes/marsh-award-ecologists-africa/	No	Does not specifically target early or mid-career researchers
Founders' Prize	British Ecological Society	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/membership-community/honours-awards-and-prizes/founders-prize/	Yes	

Table S3

List of data items extracted in "Best Researcher" award category.

Data item description	**Data item type and options**
General data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Full name of the award. Records specific award name, as listed on the available documentation (e.g., webpage).	Singular variable: text
Full name of the awarding society.	Singular variable: text
Main source of information. Usually, main webpage address of the organisation / journal.	Singular variable: link
Society disciplinary focus. Societies and journals that do not have substantial focus on ecology and/or evolution, should be excluded. You can select multiple values (i.e., both ecology and evolution), if appropriate.	Plural variable: ecology / evolution
Society geographical range. This should be based on the society name, e.g., European or Australasian should be coded as regional.	Singular variable: global / regional / unclear
Commitment to EDI in the society policies. Whether the website or policy documents mention commitment to EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion), at least some form of it (gender, age, race, background, etc.).	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Commitment to EDI in the society structures. Whether there is a committee / person (e.g., ombudsman) dedicated to supporting EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion). This question is likely applicable only to awards managed by societies.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear / not applicable
Eligibility data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Source of the information on the award eligibility criteria. Usually a link to a webpage, file name, personal information, etc..	Singular variable: link
Target career stage of eligible applicants, as stated in the award information. More than one choice possible.	Plural variable: student / early / mid / unclear

Flexibility of the eligibility criteria – whether explicitly allowing for career interruptions in eligibility timeframes.	singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Eligibility phrasing – wording of the eligibility criteria in relation to career stage in relevant documentation.	Singular variable: text
Inclusivity statement – whether underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply for the award (this does not mean that the award is restricted to underrepresented groups, e.g., women-only) or award information includes a statement of commitment to equity / diversity / inclusivity.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Inclusivity phrasing – wording of the inclusivity statement in the relevant documentation, if available.	Singular variable: text
Assessment data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Assessors transparency – whether information is provided on who will be conducting assessments of researchers / papers.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Assessors phrasing – wording of the information on who will be conducting the assessments, if available.	Singular variable: text
Process transparency – whether breakdown of the applicants / candidates by gender or geographic region is publicly available.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Comment on process transparency.	Singular variable: text
Feedback availability – whether award information includes an offer of constructive feedback for unsuccessful applicants.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Feedback phrasing – wording of the information on whether/how feedback will be provided, if available.	Singular variable: text
Criteria transparency – whether assessment criteria are detailed (usually more than one sentence) or vague (often stated as a single sentence, e.g., "assessed on innovation and novelty").	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Criteria phrasing – wording of the information on the assessment criteria, if available.	Singular variable: text
Assessment relatively to opportunity – whether assessment criteria explicitly state that assessment is performed relatively to opportunity, e.g., by considering career interruptions, caring responsibilities, access to resources.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear / not applicable
Relative opportunity phrasing – wording of the information on the assessment criteria being applied relative to opportunity, if available.	Singular variable: text
Valuing diverse contributions – whether multiple dimensions of contributions to science and research excellence are considered, such as engagement in outreach, mentoring, reviewing, advocacy.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear / not applicable
Valuing diverse contributions phrasing – wording of the information on the assessment criteria valuing diverse contributions, if available.	Singular variable: text
Valuing Open Science – whether any Open Science practices (data, code, materials sharing, preregistration, transparency of reporting, etc.) are explicitly included in the assessment criteria.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Valuing Open Science phrasing – wording of the information on the assessment criteria valuing Open Science practices, if available.	Singular variable: text
Self-nomination allowed – candidates can self-nominate for the award.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Letter required – candidates are required to provide nomination / recommendation letter/letters.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear

Letter requirement phrasing – wording of the information on the requirement for written nominations / reference letters, if available.	Singular variable: text
Awardees data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Awardee list source - source of the information on the past awardees.	Singular variable: text
Awardee list number of years – for how many years information on past awardees is available.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 2011-2020.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 2011-2020.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 2011-2020.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 2001-2010.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 2001-2010.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 2001-2010.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 1991-2000.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 1991-2000.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 1991-2000.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 1981-1990.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 1981-1990.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 1981-1990.	Singular variable: number
Extractable awardee information available for prior to 1981? (Extracted separately later, if available).	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Other data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Initials of the extracting person.	Singular variable: text
Additional comment fields were used for taking detailed notes and making comments on issues, assumptions, or seeking additional information.	Singular variable: text

Table S4

List of journals considered for data extraction in "Best Paper" award category.

Journal name	Journal Scimago categories	Include journal	Include awards	Journal / award comments
Genome Biology	Cell Biology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	No		
Fungal Diversity	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Systematic Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	No		
Ecology Letters	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	Yes	

Molecular Biology and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q1)	No	
Trends in Ecology and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No
Nature Ecology and Evolution	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No
Annual Review of Entomology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1)	No	
Persoonia: Molecular Phylogeny and Evolution of Fungi	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
ISME Journal	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Microbiology (Q1)	No	
Ecological Monographs	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No
BMC Biology	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (miscellaneous) (Q1); Biotechnology (Q1); Cell Biology (Q1); Developmental Biology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Physiology (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Structural Biology (Q1)	Yes	No
Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No
PLoS Genetics	Cancer Research (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1); Genetics (clinical) (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q1)	No	
Methods in Ecology and Evolution	Ecological Modeling (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	Yes
Global Ecology and Biogeography	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Global and Planetary Change (Q1)	No	
Conservation Letters	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No	
Ecography	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Molecular Ecology Resources	Biotechnology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	No	
mSystems	Biochemistry (Q1); Computer Science Applications (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1); Microbiology (Q1); Modeling and Simulation (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q1); Physiology (Q1)	No	
Fish and Fisheries	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q1); Oceanography (Q1)	No	
PLoS Computational Biology	Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience (Q1); Computational Theory and Mathematics (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1); Modeling and Simulation (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q1)	No	

Molecular Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	No		
Journal of Ecology	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	No	only plants
Cladistics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Functional Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	Yes	
Biological Conservation	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Conservation Biology	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No	
Journal of Animal Ecology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Current Opinion in Insect Science	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1)	No		
Evolution and Human Behavior	Arts and Humanities (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Experimental and Cognitive Psychology (Q1)	No		
American Naturalist	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	Yes	
Environmental Microbiology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Microbiology (Q1)	No		
Diversity and Distributions	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Quaternary Science Reviews	Archeology (Q1); Archeology (arts and humanities) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Geology (Q1); Global and Planetary Change (Q1)	Yes	No	
Geobiology	Earth and Planetary Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Environmental Science (miscellaneous) (Q1)	No		
Evolution; international journal of organic evolution	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	Yes	Yes	
Evolutionary Applications	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	Yes	No	
Biogeosciences	Earth-Surface Processes (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
IMA Fungus	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Current Forestry Reports	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Forestry (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		

Journal of Human Evolution	Anthropology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Education (Q1)	No		
Genome Biology and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1)	No		
Journal of Fungi	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Microbiology (medical) (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Journal of Biogeography	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Palaeontology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Paleontology (Q1)	No		
Oikos	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No	
International Journal of Biological Sciences	Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology (Q1); Developmental Biology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Cell Biology (Q2); Molecular Biology (Q2)			
Ecosystems	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Environmental Chemistry (Q1)			
Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q2)	No		
Mammal Review	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Systematic Entomology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1)	No		
BMC Evolutionary Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No	now merged with BMC Ecology and Evolution
Biology Direct	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Applied Mathematics (Q1); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Modeling and Simulation (Q1); Immunology (Q2)	No		
Evolution, Medicine and Public Health	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Health, Toxicology and Mutagenesis (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1)	No		
Mycosphere	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Environmental and Experimental Botany	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Phytobiomes Journal	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q2)	No		
Basic and Applied Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Journal of Experimental Biology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect	Yes	Yes	

	Science (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1); Physiology (Q1); Molecular Biology (Q2)			
Genetics Selection Evolution	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1); Genetics (Q2)	No		
ICES Journal of Marine Science	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Oceanography (Q1)	No		
Movement Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Oecologia	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	Yes	
Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No	
Ecological Indicators	Decision Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Frontiers in Zoology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology	Earth-Surface Processes (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Oceanography (Q1); Paleontology (Q1)	No		
Animal Cognition	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Experimental and Cognitive Psychology (Q1)	No		
Journal of Evolutionary Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	Yes	
Mycological Progress	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Animal Behaviour	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Ecosphere	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Journal of Systematics and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	Yes	No	mentioned they will start JSE Young Investigators' Awards, but no further info
Environmental Microbiology Reports	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
American Journal of Botany	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Genetics (Q2)	No		
Restoration Ecology	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		

Plant Direct	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Zoologica Scripta	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q2); Molecular Biology (Q2)	No	
Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Remote Sensing in Ecology and Conservation	Computers in Earth Sciences (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No	
Invertebrate Systematics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Reviews in Fisheries Science and Aquaculture	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q1)	No	
MycoKeys	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Ecology and Evolution	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	Yes	No
Biological Invasions	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Behavioral Ecology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Microbial Ecology	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Soil Science (Q1)	No	
Marine Ecology - Progress Series	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Cryptogamie, Mycologie	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Global Ecology and Conservation	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No	
Paleobiology	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Paleontology (Q1)	No	
Mycorrhiza	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Genetics (Q2); Molecular Biology (Q2)	No	
Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Infection, Genetics and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q2); Infectious Diseases (Q2); Microbiology (Q2); Microbiology (medical) (Q2); Molecular Biology (Q2)	No	

EvoDevo	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Developmental Biology (Q2); Genetics (Q2)	No		
Auk	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Insect Conservation and Diversity	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1)	No		
Microbes and Environments	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Soil Science (Q1)	No		
Journal of experimental psychology. Animal learning and cognition	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Experimental and Cognitive Psychology (Q2)	No		
Conservation and Society	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Fungal Ecology	Ecological Modeling (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Biodiversity and Conservation	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Evolutionary Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No	
Medical and Veterinary Entomology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1); Veterinary (miscellaneous) (Q1); Parasitology (Q2)	No		
Journal of Avian Biology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
BMC Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Environmental Science (miscellaneous) (Q1)	Yes	No	Now merged with BMC Ecology and Evolution
Avian Conservation and Ecology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Ecosystems and People	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Health (social science) (Q1); Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management (Q1); Applied Psychology (Q2); Behavioral Neuroscience (Q2)	No		
Forest Ecosystems	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Forestry (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Arthropod Structure and Development	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q1); Developmental Biology (Q2)	No		
Insect Science	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1);	No		

	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (miscellaneous) (Q2)			
American Journal of Primatology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Ecohydrology	Aquatic Science (Q1); Earth-Surface Processes (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Fungal Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Genetics (Q2); Infectious Diseases (Q2)	No		
Life	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Paleontology (Q1); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (miscellaneous) (Q2); Space and Planetary Science (Q2)	Yes	No	Best Paper Award open to all career levels
Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Journal of Plant Interactions	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No		
Ecosystem Health and Sustainability	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q1)	No		
Human Nature	Anthropology (Q1); Arts and Humanities (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Social Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q1); Sociology and Political Science (Q1)	No		
Boreas	Archeology (arts and humanities) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Geology (Q1)	No		
Estuaries and Coasts	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Journal of Wildlife Management	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Organisms Diversity and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		
Ibis	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Systematic and Applied Microbiology	Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Microbiology (Q2)	No		
Zoological research	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1)	No		
Journal of Anatomy	Anatomy (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Histology (Q1); Developmental Biology (Q2); Cell Biology (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q3)	No		
Marine Biology	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No		

Lethaia	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Paleontology (Q1)	No	
International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2); Microbiology (Q2)	No	
Fungal Biology and Biotechnology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology (Q2); Biotechnology (Q2); Cell Biology (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q3)	No	
Algae	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Journal of Zoology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Mycologia	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Genetics (Q2); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2); Physiology (Q2); Cell Biology (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q3)	No	
Opuscula Philolichenum	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Evolutionary Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No
Biological Journal of the Linnean Society	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	Yes	No
International Journal of Primatology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Plants	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Aquatic Sciences	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Water Science and Technology (Q1)	No	
NeoBiota	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Insect Science (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Ecological Modeling (Q2)	No	
Alpine Botany	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Condor	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No	
Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1)	No	
Journal of comparative psychology (Washington, D.C. : 1983)	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Psychology (miscellaneous) (Q2)	No	
Plant Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Plant Science (Q1); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2)	No	

Journal of Plankton Research	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No
Journal of Biological Dynamics	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No
Behavior Genetics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Genetics (Q2); Genetics (clinical) (Q3)	No
Evolution: Education and Outreach	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Education (Q1)	No
Journal of Chemical Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Biochemistry (Q2); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2)	No
Vertebrate Zoology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No
Palaios	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Paleontology (Q1)	No
Journal of Invertebrate Pathology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1)	No
Management of Biological Invasions	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q1); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q2)	No
Botanical Review, The	Plant Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Food Webs	Ecology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Fern Gazette	Plant Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Mammalogy	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology (Q1); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q2)	No
Journal of Experimental Zoology Part A: Ecological and Integrative Physiology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q2); Physiology (Q2); Molecular Biology (Q3)	No
Journal of Marine Systems	Aquatic Science (Q1); Oceanography (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Conservation Genetics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3)	No
Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B: Molecular and Developmental Evolution	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Developmental Biology (Q3); Genetics (Q3); Molecular Medicine (Q3)	No
Pedobiologia	Soil Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No

Population Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Taxon	Plant Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Comparative Physiology B: Biochemical, Systemic, and Environmental Physiology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Biochemistry (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Physiology (Q2); Endocrinology (Q3)	No
Biotropica	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Wildlife Research	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q2)	No
Fire Ecology	Environmental Science (miscellaneous) (Q1); Forestry (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Horticultural Plant Journal	Plant Science (Q1); Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (miscellaneous) (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Renewable Energy, Sustainability and the Environment (Q2)	No
Archaea	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2); Physiology (Q2); Microbiology (Q3)	No
Journal of Comparative Physiology A: Neuroethology, Sensory, Neural, and Behavioral Physiology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Physiology (Q2); Behavioral Neuroscience (Q3)	No
Ecological Psychology	Computer Science (miscellaneous) (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Experimental and Cognitive Psychology (Q2); Social Psychology (Q2)	No
Oryx	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2)	No
Die Naturwissenschaften	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2)	No
Ecological Informatics	Modeling and Simulation (Q1); Applied Mathematics (Q2); Computational Theory and Mathematics (Q2); Computer Science Applications (Q2); Ecological Modeling (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Systematic and Applied Acarology	Insect Science (Q1); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Systematics and Biodiversity	Plant Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q3)	No

Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata	Insect Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Mammalian Biology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Mammalian Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Theoretical Population Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Environmental Entomology	Insect Science (Q1); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Freshwater Science	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Bioacoustics	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Ethology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Plant Diversity	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology	Paleontology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research	Earth-Surface Processes (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Global and Planetary Change (Q2)	No
Mediterranean Marine Science	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Environmental Engineering (Q2); Oceanography (Q2)	No
Evolutionary Human Sciences	Anthropology (Q1); Cultural Studies (Q1); Applied Psychology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Egyptian Journal of Aquatic Research	Aquatic Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Oceanography (Q2); Water Science and Technology (Q2)	No
Marine Mammal Science	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Subterranean Biology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2); Soil Science (Q2)	No
Contributions to Zoology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Great Lakes Research	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Sea Research	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Oceanography (Q2)	No

Journal of Plant Ecology	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
South American Journal of Herpetology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Transactions of the American Fisheries Society	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Molecular Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q3)	No
Marine and Freshwater Research	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Oceanography (Q2)	No
Physiological Entomology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2); Physiology (Q3)	No
Weed Research	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Austral Ecology	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Vector Ecology	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Consciousness Studies	Philosophy (Q1); Artificial Intelligence (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Psychology (miscellaneous) (Q2)	No
Amphibia - Reptilia	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Insect Systematics and Evolution	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Anatomical Record	Anatomy (Q2); Biotechnology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Histology (Q2)	No
Journal of Fish Biology	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
ZooKeys	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Emu	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2)	No
Marine Ecology	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Ecology of Freshwater Fish	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Marine and Coastal Fisheries	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Arid Environments	Earth-Surface Processes (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No

Journal of Field Ornithology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Annales de la Societe Entomologique de France	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Journal of Tropical Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
AAPS PharmSciTech	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q2); Aquatic Science (Q2); Drug Discovery (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q2); Pharmaceutical Science (Q2)	No
Environmental Biology of Fishes	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Frontiers of Biogeography	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Global and Planetary Change (Q3)	No
Arthropoda Selecta	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Evolution and Development	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Developmental Biology (Q3)	No
Arthropod-Plant Interactions	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Insectes Sociaux	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Chelonian Conservation and Biology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q1); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Plant Ecology and Diversity	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Plant Systematics and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Applications in Plant Sciences	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
European Journal of Wildlife Research	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2)	No
Neotropical Biodiversity	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Global and Planetary Change (Q3)	No
Journal of Herpetology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Palaeoworld	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Paleontology (Q2); Stratigraphy (Q2)	No

Ecological Research	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
International Journal of Plant Sciences	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Aquaculture and Fisheries	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Zootaxa	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Antarctic Science	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Geology (Q2); Oceanography (Q2)	No
Acta Oecologica	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2)	No
Mammal Research	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Wildlife Diseases	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Mycoscience	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Hystrix	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Canadian Journal of Zoology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Cryptogamie, Algologie	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Edinburgh Journal of Botany	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Sydowia	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Avian Research	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Annales Zoologici	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
European Journal of Taxonomy	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Marine Biology Research	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Oceanography (Q2)	No
Neotropical Ichthyology	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Bulletin of the Peabody Museum of Natural History	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No

North American Journal of Fisheries Management	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q2)	No
Behavioral Sciences	Development (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Psychology (miscellaneous) (Q2); Behavioral Neuroscience (Q3); Genetics (Q3)	No
Marine Biodiversity	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Oceanography (Q2)	No
Polar Science	Aquatic Science (Q2); Earth and Planetary Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Italian Botanist	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Salamandra	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Plant Biosystems	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Aquatic Microbial Ecology	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Comparative Cognition and Behavior Reviews	Veterinary (miscellaneous) (Q1); Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Mires and Peat	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2); Soil Science (Q2)	No
Nematology	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Wildlife Biology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2)	No
Journal of Hymenoptera Research	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Water Science and Technology (Q2)	No
Herpetologica	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Journal of Bryology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
American Journal of Human Biology	Anthropology (Q1); Anatomy (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3)	No
Genomics and Informatics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3); Health Informatics (Q3)	No
Lichenologist	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No

Flora: Morphology, Distribution, Functional Ecology of Plants	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Diseases of Aquatic Organisms	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Bonn Zoological Bulletin	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Biodemography and Social Biology	Anthropology (Q1); Demography (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3)	No
Ecological Complexity	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Ecological Modeling (Q3)	No
Entomological Science	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Ecologica Montenegrina	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Gene Regulation and Systems Biology	Computer Science Applications (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q4)	No
Journal of Insect Behavior	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Zoosystema	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Fishes	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Ameghiniana	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Paleontology (Q2)	No
International Journal of Astrobiology	Earth and Planetary Sciences (miscellaneous) (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Physics and Astronomy (miscellaneous) (Q2); Space and Planetary Science (Q3)	No
International Review of Hydrobiology	Aquatic Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Zoosystematics and Evolution	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Geology (Q2); Paleontology (Q2); Global and Planetary Change (Q3)	No
Acta Ethologica	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Biochemical Genetics	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Biochemistry (Q3); Genetics (Q3); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q3); Molecular Biology (Q4)	No
Ecologia Austral	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No

New Zealand Journal of Ecology	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Nature and Landscape Conservation (Q2)	No
Chemoecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Biochemistry (Q3)	No
Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Journal of Natural History	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
PhytoKeys	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Biodiversity Data Journal	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Systematic Botany	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2); Genetics (Q3)	No
Arctic	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Austral Entomology	Agronomy and Crop Science (Q2); Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2)	No
Evolutionary Bioinformatics	Computer Science Applications (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Genetics (Q3)	No
BioInvasions Records	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
African Journal of Ecology	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Bryologist	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Plant Science (Q2)	No
Environments - MDPI	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Environmental Science (miscellaneous) (Q2); Renewable Energy, Sustainability and the Environment (Q3)	No
Origins of Life and Evolution of Biospheres	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Medicine (miscellaneous) (Q3); Space and Planetary Science (Q3)	No
Ecoscience	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Ichthyological Research	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Theoretical and Applied Ecology	Ecology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2)	No
Aquatic Insects	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q2); Insect Science (Q2); Aquatic Science (Q3)	No
Revue Suisse de Zoologie	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q3)	No

Russian Entomological Journal	Insect Science (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q3)	No
Folia Primatologica	Animal Science and Zoology (Q2); Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics (Q3)	No

Table S5

Shortlist of potentially eligible "Best Paper" awards.

Award name	Awarded by	Webpage	Included	Comments
Best Graduate Student Paper	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	https://www.smbe.org/smbe/AWARDS/StudentandPostdoctoralFellowAwards/BestGraduateStudentPaperAward.aspx	Yes	Applies to 2 journals = 2 separate awards
George Mercer Award	Ecological Society of America	https://www.esa.org/about/awards/george-mercer-award/	Yes	Work published in any journal
Best First Paper	Society for Open Reliable Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology	https://www.sortee.org/awards/	No	Discontinued
Stearns Graduate Student Prize	European Society for Evolutionary Biology/Journal of Evolutionary Biology	https://eseb.org/prizes-funding/stearns-graduate-student-prize/	Yes	
Presidents' Award for Outstanding Dissertation Paper in Evolution	Society for the Study of Evolution / Evolution	http://www.evolutionsociety.org/index.php?module=content&type=user&func=view&pid=14	Yes	
Presidential Award	American Society of Naturalists / The American Naturalist	https://www.amnat.org/awards.html#President	No	Any career stage
American Naturalist Student Paper Award	American Society of Naturalists / The American Naturalist	https://www.amnat.org/awards.html#AN	Yes	
Robert May Prize	British Ecological Society / Methods in Ecology and Evolution	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/robert-may-prize/#:~:text=The%20Methods%20in%20Ecology%20and,start%20of%20their%20research%20career.	Yes	
Georgina Mace Prize	British Ecological Society / Ecological Solutions and Evidence	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/georgina-mace-prize/	No	Journal not in the shortlist
Chico Mendes Prize	British Ecological Society / Ecological Solutions and Evidence	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/chico-mendes-prize/	No	Journal not in the shortlist

Haldane Early Career Researcher Award	British Ecological Society / Functional Ecology	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/haldane-prize/	Yes	
Elton Prize	British Ecological Society / Journal of Animal Ecology	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/elton-prize/	No	Focus on animals only
Southwood Prize	British Ecological Society / Journal of Applied Ecology	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/southwood-prize/	No	Journal not in the shortlist
Harper Early Career Researcher Award	British Ecological Society / Journal of Ecology	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/harper-prize/	No	
Rachel Carson Prize	British Ecological Society / People and Nature	https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/best-paper-by-an-early-career-researcher/rachel-carson-prize/	No	Journal not in the shortlist
Best Student Paper	Genetics Society / Heredity	https://genetics.org.uk/heredity-announces-2020-best-student-paper-prize/#:~:text=The%202020%20Heredity%20best%20student,submit%20material%20to%20the%20journal.	No	Journal not in the shortlist; journal linked to genetic society
S.J. O'Brien Award	American Genetic Association / Journal of Heredity	https://www.theaga.org/news/award-recipients	No	Journal not in the shortlist; journal linked to genetic society
Early Career Researcher Award	CNRS / Ecology Letters	https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/page/journal/homepage/14610248/ecologylettersaward?=	Yes	
Outstanding paper prize	The Company of Biologists / Journal of Experimental Biology	https://journals.biologists.com/jeb/pages/outstanding-paper-prize	Yes	
Highlighted Student Papers	Oecologia	https://www.springer.com/journal/442/updates/17230010?gclid=CjwKCAjw6dmSBhBkEiwA_W-EoMKjmhTwgoNgpsLcxzB-CPgRPs1Uqm8l6QOlilWJAB1YCfKdtOu8nxoCwqoQAvD_BwE	No	Excluded, as it is not a typical award, more like shortlist

Table S6

List of data items extracted in "Best Paper" award category.

Data item description	**Data item type and options**
General data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Full name of the award. Records specific award name, as listed on the available documentation (e.g., webpage).	Singular variable: text
Full name of the awarding journal [singular variable: text]. Note: recorded society name, if relevant, e.g., a journal belongs to a society.	Singular variable: text

Journal disciplinary focus. Journals that do not have substantial focus on ecology and/or evolution, should be excluded. Multiple values (i.e., both ecology and evolution) can be selected, if appropriate.	Plural variable: ecology / evolution
Journal geographical range.	Singular variable: global / regional / unclear
Journal commitment to EDI in the journal policies - whether the website or policy documents mention commitment to EDI.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Comment on journal commitment to EDI in the journal policies.	Singular variable: text
Eligibility data extracted for "Best Paper" awards:	
Source of the information on the award eligibility criteria [singular variable: text]. Usually a link to a journal /society webpage with relevant information.	Singular variable: link
Target career stage of eligible applicants, as stated in the award information.	Plural variable: student / early / mid / unclear
Flexibility of the eligibility criteria – whether explicitly allowing for career interruptions in eligibility timeframes.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Eligibility phrasing – wording of the eligibility criteria in relation to career stage in relevant documentation.	Singular variable: text
Inclusivity statement – whether underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply for the award (this does not mean that the award is restricted to underrepresented groups, e.g., women-only) or award information includes a statement of commitment to equity / diversity / inclusivity.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Inclusivity phrasing – wording of the inclusivity statement in the relevant documentation, if available.	Singular variable: text
Assessment data extracted for "Best Paper" awards:	
Assessors phrasing – wording of the information on who will be conducting the assessments, if available.	Singular variable: text
Process transparency – whether breakdown of the applicants / candidates by gender or geographic region is publicly available.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Comment on process transparency.	Singular variable: text
Feedback availability – whether award information includes an offer of constructive feedback for unsuccessful applicants.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Feedback phrasing – wording of the information on whether/how feedback will be provided, if available.	Singular variable: text
Criteria transparency – whether assessment criteria are detailed. Usually more than one sentence) or vague (often stated as a single sentence, e.g., "assessed on innovation and novelty".	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Criteria phrasing – wording of the information on the assessment criteria, if available.	Singular variable: text
Valuing Open Science – whether any Open Science practices (data, code, materials sharing, preregistration, transparency of reporting, etc.) are explicitly included in the assessment criteria.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Valuing Open Science phrasing – wording of the information on the assessment criteria valuing Open Science practices, if available.	Singular variable: text
Self-nomination allowed – candidates can self-nominate for the award.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear

Letter required – candidates are required to provide nomination / recommendation letter /letters.	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Letter requirement phrasing – Wording of the information on the requirement for written nominations / reference letters, if available.	Singular variable: text
Awardees data extracted for "Best Paper" awards:	
Awardee list source - source of the information on the past awardees.	Singular variable: text
Awardee list number of years – for how many years information on past awardees is available.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 2011-2020.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 2011-2020.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 2011-2020.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 2001-2010.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 2001-2010.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 2001-2010.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 1991-2000.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 1991-2000.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 1991-2000.	Singular variable: number
Number of female awardees 1981-1990.	Singular variable: number
Number of male awardees 1981-1990.	Singular variable: number
Number of awardees with unassignable gender 1981-1990.	Singular variable: number
Extractable awardee information available for prior to 1981? (Extracted separately later, if available).	Singular variable: yes / no / unclear
Other data extracted for "Best Researcher" awards:	
Initials of the extracting person.	Singular variable: text
Additional comment fields were used for taking detailed notes and making comments on issues, assumptions, or seeking additional information.	Singular variable: text

Table S7

Characteristics of extracted "Best Researcher" awards. The "Award name" column includes abbreviated name of the awarding body for consistency with the award names used in the plots.

Award name	Awarding body name	Disciplinary focus	Geographical range	Target career stage	EDI policies	EDI structures
ASN Distinguished Naturalist Award	American Society of Naturalists	Ecology, evolution	Regional	Mid-career	Yes	Yes

ASN Early Career Investigator Award	American Society of Naturalists	Ecology, evolution	Regional	Early-career	Yes	Yes
BES Founders' Prize	British Ecological Society	Ecology	Regional	Early-career	Yes	Yes
ESA MacArthur Award	Ecological Society of America	Ecology	Regional	Mid-career	Yes	Yes
ESEB Maynard Smith Prize	European Society for Evolutionary Biology	Evolution	Regional	Student, early-career	No	Yes
ESEB President's Award	European Society for Evolutionary Biology	Evolution	Regional	Mid-career	No	Yes
ESGAS GfÖ-Prize	The Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Gesellschaft für Ökologie, GfÖ)	Ecology	Regional	Early-career	Unclear	No
IEI Professional Excellence	International Ecology Institute	Ecology	Global	Early-career	No	No
LSL The Bicentenary Medal	Linnean Society of London	Ecology, evolution	Regional	Early-career, mid-career	Yes	No
SMBE Early-Career Excellence Award	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	Evolution	Global	Early-career	Yes	Yes
SMBE Mid-Career Excellence Award	Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	Evolution	Global	Mid-career	Yes	Yes
SORTEE Open Science in Practice	Society for Open Reliable Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology	Ecology, evolution	Global	Student, early-career	Yes	Yes
SSE Dobzhansky Prize	Society for the Study of Evolution	Evolution	Global	Early-career	Yes	Yes

Table S8

Characteristics of extracted "Best Paper" awards. The "Award name" column includes abbreviated name of the journal / abbreviated name of the awarding society for consistency with the award names used in the plots.

Award name	Awarding body / journal name	Disciplinary focus	Geographical range	Target career stage	EDI policies
MolBiolEvol / SMBE Best Graduate Student Paper	Molecular Biology & Evolution; Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	Evolution	Global	Student, early-career	No
GenomeBiolEvol / SMBE Best Graduate Student Paper	Genome Biology & Evolution; Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution	Evolution	Global	Student, early-career	No

any journal / ESA George Mercer Award	any journal; Ecological Society of America	Ecology	Global	Student, early-career, mid-career	Yes
JEvolutionBiol / ESEB Stearns Graduate Student Prize	Journal of Evolutionary Biology; European Society for Evolutionary Biology	Evolution	Global	Student, early-career	No
Evolution / SSE Outstanding Dissertation Award	Evolution; Society for the Study of Evolution	Evolution	Global	Student, early-career	No
AmNat / ASN Student Paper Award	The American Naturalist; American Society of Naturalists	Ecology	Global	Student, early-career	Yes
MethodsEcolEvol / BES Robert May Prize	Methods in Ecology and Evolution; British Ecological Society	Ecology, evolution	Global	Early-career	No
FunctEcol / BES Haldane ECR Award	Functional Ecology; British Ecological Society	Ecology	Global	Early-career	No
EcolLett / CNRS ECR Award	Ecology Letters; CNRS	Ecology	Global	Early-career	No
JExpBiol / CoB Outstanding Paper Prize	Journal of Experimental Biology; The Company of Biologists	Ecology, evolution	Global	Student, early-career	Yes

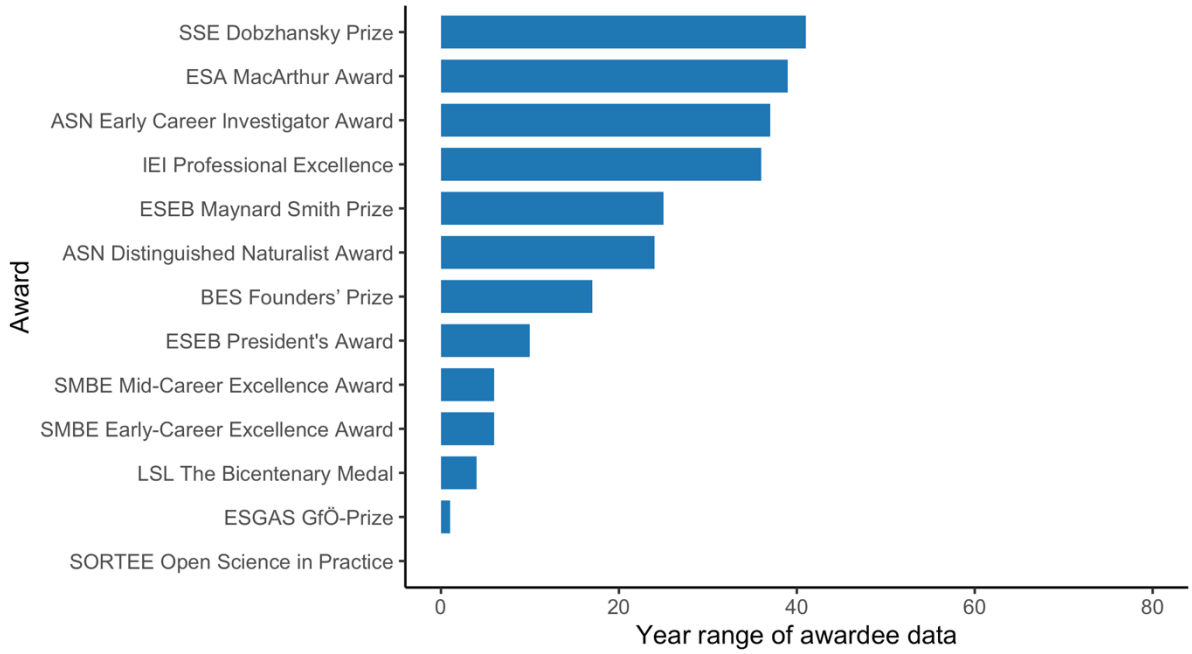

Figure S1

Plot of the ranges of years for which awardee information is available for included "Best Researcher" awards. The range was calculated as the difference between the year 2022 and the listed year of award of the first listed awardee.

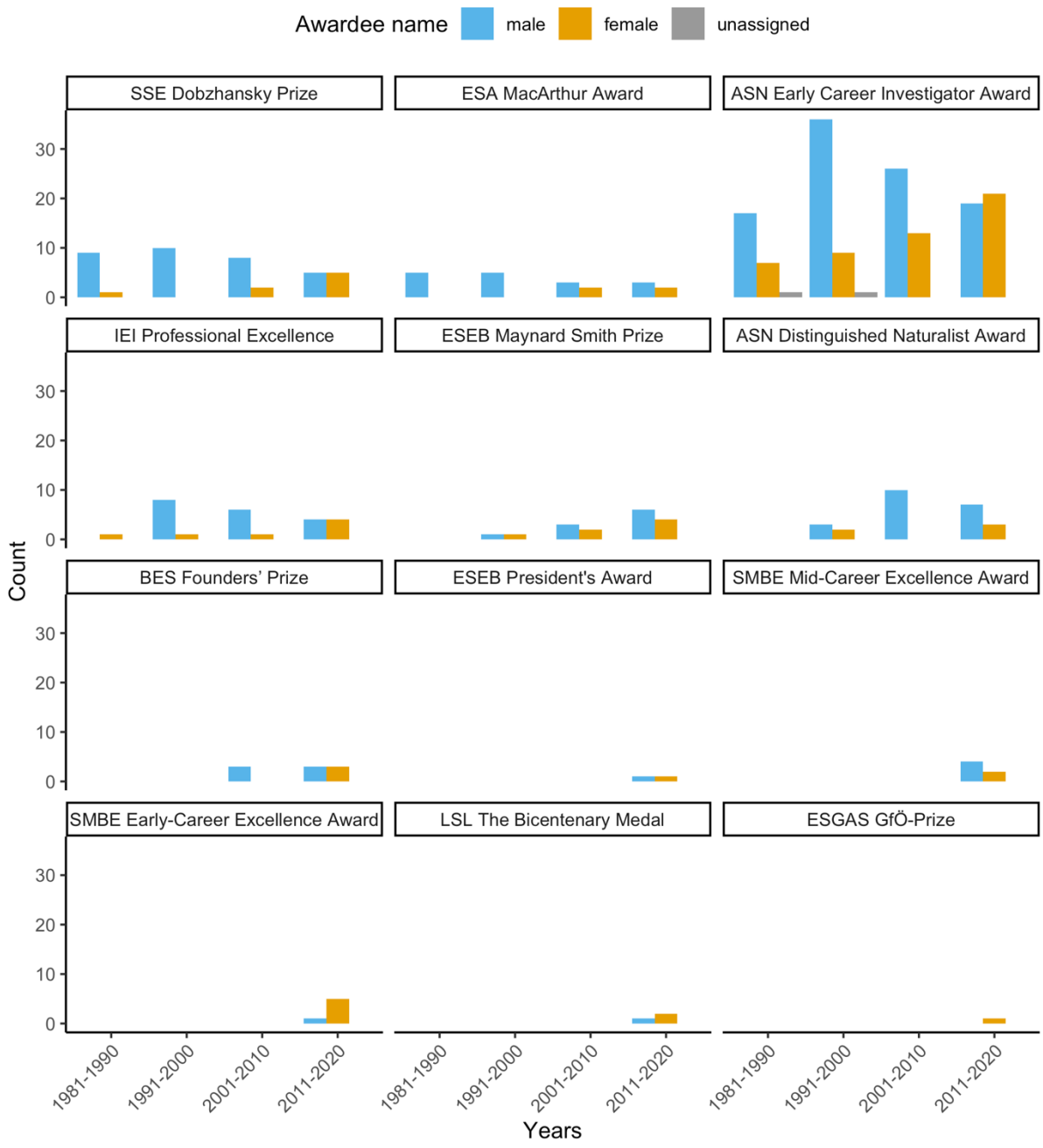

Figure S2

Plot of the counts of the female and male names for included "Best Researcher" awards across decades.

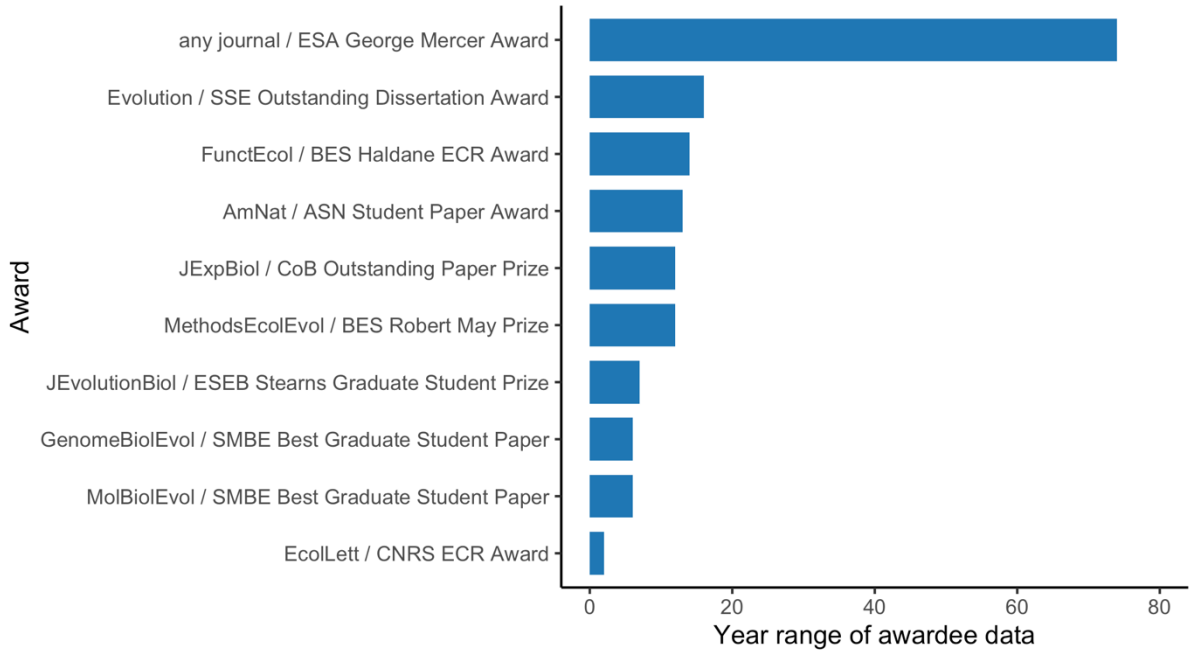

Figure S3

Plot of the ranges of years for which awardee information is available for included "Best Paper" awards. The range was calculated as the difference between the year 2022 and the listed year of award of the first listed awardee.

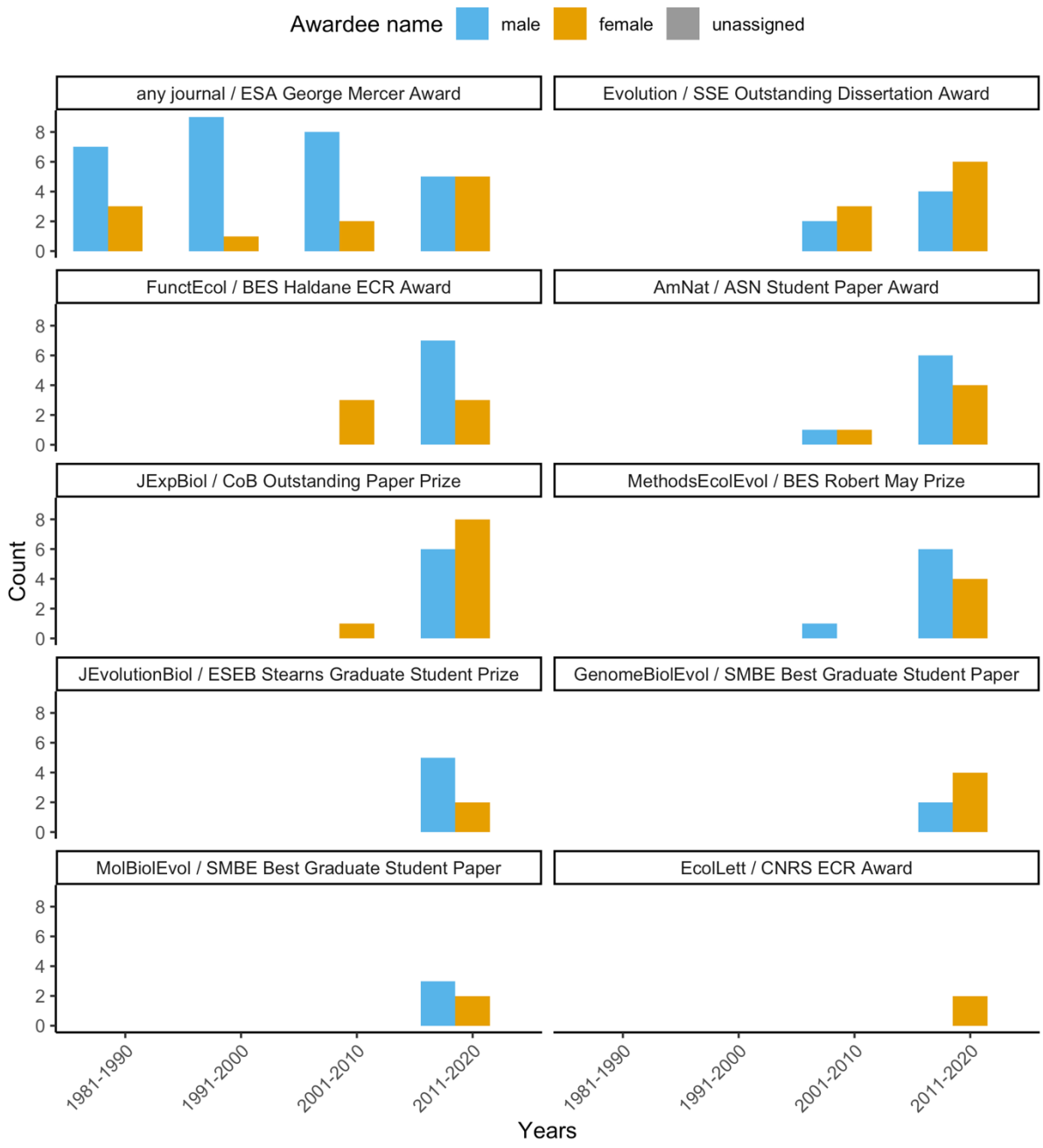

Figure S4

Plot of the counts of the female and male names for included "Best Paper" awards across decades.