

MaizeGDB

Maize Genetics and Genomics Database
<http://www.maizegdb.org>

To: C. Robertson McClung, President ASPB
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Department of Biological Sciences
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Hanover, NH 03755

From: MaizeGDB and the Maize Genetics Executive Committee

Subject: Correction for maize publication data

Dear Rob,

MaizeGDB and the Maize Genetics Executive Committee read the last ASPB Newsletter (Volume 35, Number 4) and very much enjoyed your editorial supporting continued (and potentially increased) funding for model organisms and translational work to support crop improvement to meet society's evolving needs. To clarify the continuing contributions of maize researchers, we are sending you a correction to Figure 1, which contained inaccurate data about maize publications. Figure 1 was derived from data about publications in databases for each of the model organisms displayed; however, MaizeGDB has not curated publications since 2003. Therefore, these flawed data sources display an artifactual decrease in annual maize publications in recent years.

We attach here a correction to Figure 1, which is a graph of maize peer-reviewed publications from January 1995-December 2007. To generate these data we queried Scopus and PubMed for "maize" or "Zea" or "teosinte". Detailed methods and a list of journals included are available at <http://www.maizegdb.org/maizepubs.php>. Note that the peer-reviewed publications reported here are but a subset of the original figure's content. Consequently, the maize data in this corrected figure cannot be directly compared to the data for maize or other species in the original figure.

The corrected data show a steady increase in maize publications. As you reported for Arabidopsis, maize funding has increased over that same period, and this likely accounts for the increase in publication numbers. These corrected data are strong evidence of the positive outcomes from NGPI-supported research and could be a useful means to promote continued funding.

Sincerely,

MaizeGDB and the Maize Genetics Executive Committee

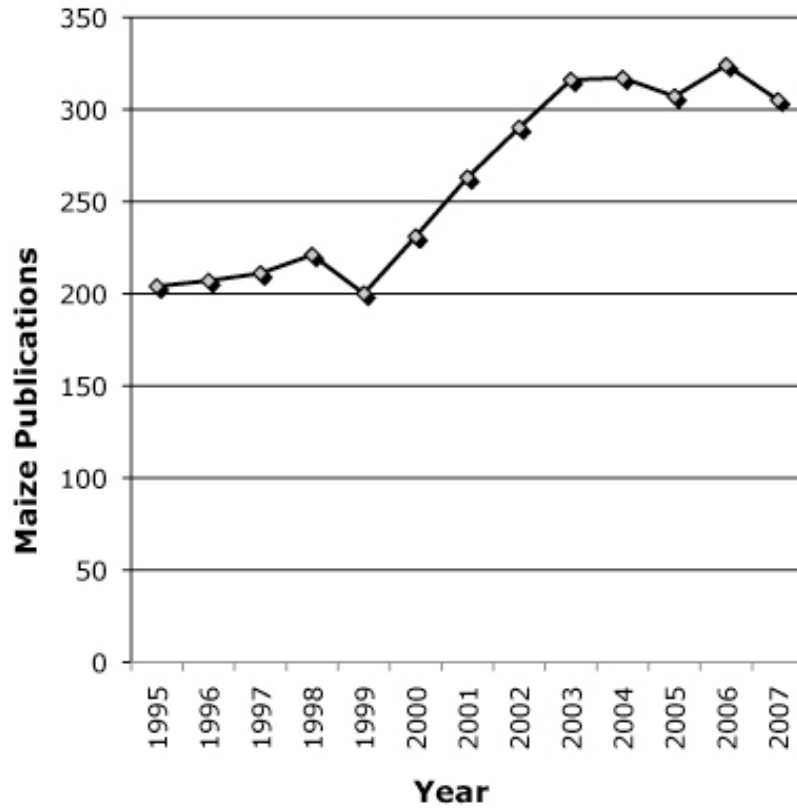


Figure 1 maize correction. Numbers of maize peer-reviewed publications over time.