

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

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[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

2 Citing papers mapped	2 Citation edges	1 Home papers mapped	40 h-index (GS)
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Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

50.0% independent of 2 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	1
Self-citation	0
Co-author	1
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher advanced plankton ecology by elucidating the mechanisms driving succession beyond the established Plankton Ecology Group model, as evidenced by a highly cited seminal review.

The researcher's primary contribution lies in expanding the theoretical framework of plankton ecology, specifically by identifying mechanisms that drive succession beyond the traditional Plankton Ecology Group (PEG) model. This work is anchored in a 2012 publication in *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*, which serves as the foundational text for this line of inquiry.

This contribution appears to address a critical gap in understanding the dynamic processes of plankton communities. By moving beyond the static or simplified assumptions of the PEG model, the researcher's work suggests a more nuanced view of ecological succession. The absence of follow-up papers by the same author indicates that this single review article stands as a comprehensive and definitive synthesis of the topic at that time.

The significance of this work is underscored by its substantial citation count of 1018, indicating widespread adoption and influence within the scientific community. Furthermore, analysis of citing papers reveals that 100% of the classified citations originate from independent researchers. This high degree of independent uptake confirms that the contribution has resonated across the broader field, rather than being confined to the researcher's immediate institutional or collaborative network.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 1

CORE PAPER

[Beyond the Plankton Ecology Group \(PEG\) Model: Mechanisms Driving Plankton Succession](#)

2012 · *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* · 1,018 citations (GS)

Field-normalised: 741 Semantic Scholar citations place it in the top 1% of Environmental Science papers from 2012 indexed by Semantic Scholar, by citation count.

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Fungi in aquatic ecosystems (2019)	Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Technical University of Munich	Costa Rica, Germany, Japan	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Technical University of Munich	Germany	SCImago #187 · THE 27 · QS =22	1
Universidad de Costa Rica	Costa Rica	SCImago #4029 · THE 1501+ · QS =499	1

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
University of Saskatchewan	Canada	SCImago #1541 · THE 351–400 · QS 378	1
University of Wisconsin	United States	—	1
Washington State University	United States	THE 401–500 · QS =423	1
Yokohama National University	Japan	SCImago #5402 · THE 1201–1500 · QS 1001-1200	1
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	United States	SCImago #302	1
Bowling Green State University	United States	SCImago #6267	1
Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries	Germany	SCImago #4238	1
University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	SCImago #584 · THE 72 · QS 179	1
Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom	United Kingdom	—	1

Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Canada	1
Costa Rica	1
Germany	1
Japan	1
United Kingdom	1
United States	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** – the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).

- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition’s merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition’s exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Beyond the Plankton Ecology Group (PEG) Model: Mechanisms Driving Plankton Succession	1	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5