tor, its acceptance by the astronomical community. There is information about the journal impact factor since 1985. From 1985–1994 the mean impact factor of RevMexAA was of 0.577, which is relatively low. We interpret this value, not only as a measure of moderate interest by the readers on the contents of the journal, but also, to the fact that the impact factor is a fraction where the denominator is the number of titles published, and during that period the articles that were taken into account included the contributions to conference proceeding volumes, that frequently do not obtain high citation rates. However, to make more explicit the contents in the journal, as mentioned above, in 1995 it was decided to separate the publications into two collections: the main volumes, RevMexAA, to encompass all the original research that undergoes refereeing, and a new publication, Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica (Serie de Conferencias) to house the memoirs of meetings. After this new arrangement of separate publications, the impact factor of RevMexAA increased significantly, and reached a mean value of 2.015 from 1995 to 2009. In 2009 the impact factor was of 2.525, the 5-year journal impact factor was of 2.284; altogether the mean impact factor in the last 9 years has been of 2.466. These data have been taken from the Science Citation Index in the past and from the ISI Web of Knowledge Journal Citation Reports (e. g. JCR Science Edition 2009).

From these figures, we recognize that although the impact factor of RevMexAA is not the highest among the astronomy and astrophysics journals, it is comparable with those of astronomical journals respected by the community.

It is important to note that this journal has been the publication of highest impact factor in Ibero-America, at least from 1985 thru 2004 (Luna-Morales & Collazo-Reyes 2007). In 2009 it was only surpassed by one journal in Brasil and two in Spain, both in biological sciences (JCR Science Edition 2009).

Fig. 2. Cover page of the most recent issue of RevMexAA.

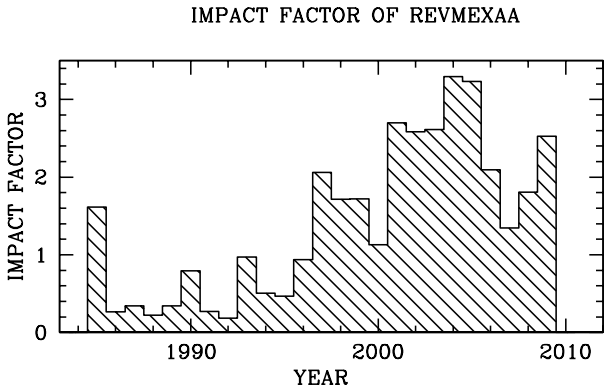

Fig. 3. Impact factor of Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica from 1985 to 2009. The mean value for the 2001–2009 period is 2.466.

3. VISIBILITY

RevMexAA is included in Current Contents, Science Citation Index, Scopus, Scielo, Redalyc, Latindex and other international indexes.

Most importantly for our discipline, both RevMexAA and Serie de Conferencias are included in the SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System, the digital library for physics and astronomy, ADS. This has allowed the visibility of RevMexAA to be comparable to that of the best international astronomical journals. Furthermore its contents are available in electronic form free of charge in `http://www.astroscu.unam.mx/~rmaa`.

From a search carried out in ADS data base, it was found that (up to October 2010) 29 individual authors had gathered more than 100 citations in RevMexAA publications, and more than 10 authors had received over 300 citations, while more than 2 had obtained over 1000 citations. This results depend on the number of papers published in RevMexAA and on their quality.