

# Instructions to Authors

## 1. GENERAL

*Proceedings: Biological Sciences* is published monthly. It contains announcements of important new developments in biology. Papers crossing the boundaries of subjects are particularly welcome. The normal maximum length is 4000 words including the abstract and references (plus four figures and/or tables; equivalent to five printed pages). With the same restriction on length, reviews containing original and interesting ideas, and extensions to, or criticisms of, papers already published (subject to the criteria of interest, originality and good manners) will also be acceptable. The target publication time is three months from receipt of a paper, excluding the time that the typescript is in the hands of the author. Authors are advised that **papers prepared in accordance with these instructions will be given priority**. Acceptance of a paper will be determined by its quality and interest.

The format of the journal is A4 (297 mm × 210 mm), double column, with a normal text area of 255 mm × 167 mm.

## 2. SUBMISSION

Submitted papers must not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Authors should send papers to the *Proceedings* B Editorial Office, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, U.K. The date of the paper's receipt will be published if the paper is accepted. Authors are asked to include their telephone numbers, fax numbers and/or electronic mail addresses in correspondence about the paper.

**Four** copies of the typescript and any figures (together with one set of original drawings and prints) are required. A word count should be included. The extra copies of any photographs should be prints rather than photocopies.

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to the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*. Footnotes should be avoided.

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It is **very important** that both the title and the summary should be comprehensible, and interesting, to the non-specialist. Authors are asked to make their titles as short and general as possible. The title should be typed on a separate covering sheet which should also bear the names of the authors and that of the laboratory or other place where the work has been done. Addresses for correspondence, where these differ from the place of work, should also be given, indicating which author correspondence should be addressed to, and giving telephone and fax numbers. A very short title (maximum of 50 letters and spaces) suitable for page headings should also be given. The summary should not exceed 200 words, and should be precise and informative.

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Papers may be divided into sections, described by short headings. Subsections should not be used. Materials and methods sections should be marked in the margin for small type.

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As far as possible the recommendations contained in *Quantities, units, and symbols* (1975, The Royal Society, £2.50) should be followed; in particular the International System of Units (SI) should be used whenever it is practicable to do so.

Special care is necessary in differentiation between handwritten symbols of comparable shape, e.g. *V v v*, *w W*, *s S*, *p ρ P*, *T τ*. Marginal indications and differential underlinings should be used where necessary, the normal conventions being followed where applicable, e.g. *~~~~* to signify bold characters. Mathematical variables should be underlined.

Wherever possible, only internationally agreed abbreviations should be used; see, for example, the list of accepted abbreviations for use in the *Biochemical Journal*.

## 7. STATISTICS

As far as possible, the presentation of statistics should follow the guidelines published each year in the July issue of the *Proceedings*, starting from July 1992.

When referring to computer programs, authors should specify clearly the procedures used, and should quote publications that will allow the reader to ascertain how they are carried out.

## 8. ILLUSTRATIONS

Duplicate figures (e.g. Xerox or photographic copies, as appropriate) should be supplied with each copy. The author's name and the number of the figure should be written on the back of all illustrations. Figures should be numbered in one sequence throughout the paper.

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The position of each illustration should be clearly marked in the typescript thus:

Figure 2 near here

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Any labelling necessary for the understanding of a figure should be applied directly on the original drawings before duplicate copies are taken. All lettering should be in lower case except for the initial capital letters of proper names or where capitals are essential, e.g. for chemical abbreviations. Times or a close equivalent should be used. The height of capital letters *after reduction* should be as close to 2 mm as possible. When in doubt use smaller rather than larger lettering.

Consultation between authors or their draughtsmen and the Editorial Office (telephone 071-839 5561, extension 229) will help ensure satisfactory results.

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These should be typed with double spacing on a separate sheet at the end of the paper. Figure legends should follow the style given below:

Figure 7. Time-course of changes in fibre type composition during post-stimulation recovery. (a) Type 1 fibres. (b) Type 2A fibres, including the transitional fibres (asterisks) referred to in the text. (c) Type 2B fibres. Bands indicate the range (mean  $\pm$  s.d.) for the corresponding fibre type in control muscles.

*Photographs*

When it is essential to include photographs they should make the most efficient use of the space required. The area covered by the photographs should be restricted to the subject in question, or to a *minimum* representative area in photomicrographs, etc. This enables the photograph to be reproduced at the largest possible scale. The text area available in *Proceedings B* is 255 mm  $\times$  167 mm. Photographs will be printed with the text, not on plates.

Authors should supply unlettered, unmounted glossy prints marked on the back with the authors' names, the number of the figure and with the top and bottom indicated. A rough set should be provided with any required lettering clearly marked. Each micrograph must include a scale bar, either applied directly to the original or marked on the rough set, with an indication of the exact length.

## 9. TABLES

Tables, however small, should be numbered in arabic numerals and referred to in the text by their numbers. The position of each table should be shown as follows:

Table 3 near here

Table headings should be a brief title only; descriptions of experimental detail should follow, starting on a new line, in parentheses. Column headings should be in lower-case lettering except for the capital initial letters of proper names. The units of measurement and any numerical factors should be placed unambiguously at the head of the column, e.g.  $F/\text{MHz}$ ,  $10^{28}\sigma/\text{m}^3$  or  $q/(\text{kJ mol}^{-1})$ .

## 10. REFERENCES

References to the literature cited must be given in double-spaced typing, in alphabetical order at the end of the paper. They should be prepared following the style of recent issues of *Proceedings B*.

Reference citations in the text are made by the name and year method; references by number are not permitted.

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On acceptance of a paper, the Society's Editorial Office will inform authors when they may expect to receive proofs for checking. Because of the need for fast publication, only a few days may be available for checking proofs, so authors who may be absent from their normal address should either inform the Society of their intended whereabouts or make other arrangements for the proofs to be checked quickly. Fax numbers are welcomed; the Society's is 071-976-1837 for publication matters.

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# Contents

## Series B Volume 252

No. 1333 22 April 1993

- Reproductive investment in bushcrickets: the allocation of male and female nutrients to offspring  
By L. W. SIMMONS and D. T. GWYNNE 1
- Coevolution between male ejaculates and female reproductive biology in eutherian mammals  
By MONTSERRAT GOMENDIO and EDUARDO R. S. ROLDAN 7
- The organization of neural systems in the primate cerebral cortex [Plates 1 and 2]  
By MALCOLM P. YOUNG 13
- Biomechanical analysis of a Palaeozoic gymnosperm stem  
By N. P. ROWE, T. SPECK and J. GALTIER 19
- The exploitation of elephants for the ivory trade: an historical perspective  
By E. J. MILNER-GULLAND and J. R. BEDDINGTON 29
- Temperature stress induces dynamical chaos in a cnidarian gastrovascular system  
By LEO W. BUSS and J. RIMAS VAIŠNYS 39
- Analysis of phase-related changes in behaviour of desert locust nymphs  
By PETER ROESSINGH, STEPHEN J. SIMPSON and SAMANTHA JAMES 43
- Morphology and sexual selection in the barn swallow *Hirundo rustica* in Chernobyl, Ukraine  
By ANDERS PAPE MØLLER 51
- Female lions can identify potentially infanticidal males from their roars  
By KAREN McCOMB, ANNE PUSEY, CRAIG PACKER and JON GRINNELL 59
- Background inward current in ventricular and atrial cells of the guinea-pig  
By T. KIYOSUE, A. J. SPINDLER, S. J. NOBLE and D. NOBLE 65
- An X-ray absorption spectroscopy study of the structure and transformation of amorphous calcium carbonate from plant cystoliths  
By MARINA G. TAYLOR, K. SIMKISS, G. N. GREAVES, M. OKAZAKI and S. MANN 75

No. 1334 22 May 1993

- Measles immunization strategies for an epidemiologically heterogeneous population: the Israeli case study  
By Z. AGUR, Y. L. DANON, R. M. ANDERSON, L. COJOCARU and R. M. MAY 81
- Red-white muscle distribution and fibre growth dynamics: a comparison between lacustrine and riverine populations of the Southern smelt *Retropinna retropinna* Richardson  
By V. B. MEYER-ROCHOW and J. R. INGRAM 85
- The coupling pattern of axon-bearing horizontal cells in the mammalian retina  
By DAVID I. VANEY 93
- On trees as equivalent cables  
By R. R. WHITEHEAD and J. R. ROSENBERG 103
- Reproductive development in the hermaphroditic freshwater snail *Physa* monitored with complementing albino lines  
By AMY R. WETHINGTON and ROBERT T. DILLON, JR 109
- Electron probe energy dispersive X-ray microanalysis (EDXA) in the investigation of fossil bone: the case of Java man  
By ANTONIS BARTSIOKAS and MICHAEL H. DAY 115
- Echolocation calls of bats are influenced by maternal effects and change over a lifetime  
By GARETH JONES and ROGER D. RANSOME 125
- Looking and learning: a spatial pattern in the orientation flight of the wasp *Vespula vulgaris*  
By T. S. COLLETT and M. LEHRER 129
- Temperature-dependent switch between diurnal and nocturnal foraging in salmon  
By NEIL H. C. FRASER, NEIL B. METCALFE and JOHN E. THORPE 135
- The amino terminal half of the nicotinic  $\beta$ -subunit extracellular domain regulates the kinetics of inhibition by neuronal bungarotoxin  
By ROGER L. PAPKE, ROBERT M. DUVOISIN and STEPHEN F. HEINEMANN 141
- On the effect of temperature-dependent sex determination on sex ratio and survivorship in crocodylians  
By D. E. WOODWARD and J. D. MURRAY 149
- C6 epitope expression by an unrelated antisense cDNA clone: an inadvertent surface-stimulation mimotope  
By M. J. HOBART, B. A. FERNIE, K. K. STANLEY and P. J. LACHMANN 157

Contents

Genetic polymorphisms in prehistoric Pacific islanders determined by analysis of ancient bone DNA By E. HAGELBERG and J. B. CLEGG	163
No. 1335 22 June 1993	
How diverse should the immune system be? By ROB J. DE BOER and ALAN S. PERELSON	171
Long-distance gene flow in a cooperative breeder detected in genealogies of mitochondrial DNA sequences By SCOTT V. EDWARDS	177
Rapid switching of ion current in narrow pores: implications for biological ion channels By A. A. LEV, Y. E. KORCHEV, T. K. ROSTOVTSEVA, C. L. BASHFORD, D. T. EDMONDS and C. A. PASTERNAK	187
Is there only one type of male handicap? By SARAH COLLINS	193
Male mating success and paternity in the grey seal, <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> : a study using DNA fingerprinting By WILLIAM AMOS, SEAN TWISS, PATRICK P. POMEROY and SHEILA S. ANDERSON	199
The tuning of human photopigments may minimize red–green chromatic signals in natural conditions By M. G. NAGLE and D. OSORIO	209
Going beyond the information given: the relation of illusory visual motion to brain activity [Plate 1] By S. ZEKI, J. D. G. WATSON and R. S. J. FRACKOWIAK	215
Ca <sup>2+</sup> limits the development of the light response in <i>Drosophila</i> photoreceptors By ROGER C. HARDIE, ASHER PERETZ, JOHN A. POLLOCK and BARUCH MINKE	223
The phylogenetic position of the zebrafish ( <i>Danio rerio</i> ), a model system in developmental biology: an invitation to the comparative method By AXEL MEYER, CHRISTIANE H. BIERMANN and GUILLERMO ORTÍ	231
Recombination and mammalian genome evolution By ADAM EYRE-WALKER	237
On avian asymmetry: evidence of natural selection for symmetrical tails and wings in birds By ANDREW BALMFORD, IAN L. JONES and ADRIAN L. R. THOMAS	245
Errata	253
Instructions to Authors	255
Indexes	257

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Series B Volume 252 Number 1335 22 June 1993

CONTENTS

---

R. J. DE BOER & A. S. PERELSON	pages 171–175
How diverse should the immune system be?	
S. V. EDWARDS	177–185
Long-distance gene flow in a cooperative breeder detected in genealogies of mitochondrial DNA sequences	
A. A. LEV, Y. E. KORCHEV, T. K. ROSTOVTSOVA, C. L. BASHFORD, D. T. EDMONDS & C. A. PASTERNAK	187–192
Rapid switching of ion current in narrow pores: implications for biological ion channels	
S. COLLINS	193–197
Is there only one type of male handicap?	
W. AMOS, S. TWISS, P. P. POMEROY & S. S. ANDERSON	199–207
Male mating success and paternity in the grey seal, <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> : a study using DNA fingerprinting	
M. G. NAGLE & D. OSORIO	209–213
The tuning of human photopigments may minimize red–green chromatic signals in natural conditions	
S. ZEKI, J. D. G. WATSON & R. S. J. FRACKOWIAK	215–222
Going beyond the information given: the relation of illusory visual motion to brain activity [Plate 1]	
R. C. HARDIE, A. PERETZ, J. A. POLLOCK & B. MINKE	223–229
Ca <sup>2+</sup> limits the development of the light response in <i>Drosophila</i> photoreceptors	
A. MEYER, C. H. BIERMANN & G. ORTÍ	231–236
The phylogenetic position of the zebrafish ( <i>Danio rerio</i> ), a model system in developmental biology: an invitation to the comparative method	
A. EYRE-WALKER	237–243
Recombination and mammalian genome evolution	
A. BALMFORD, I. L. JONES & A. L. R. THOMAS	245–251
On avian asymmetry: evidence of natural selection for symmetrical tails and wings in birds	
ERRATA	253
INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS	255–256
INDEXES	257–259

\* \* \*

VOLUME TITLE PAGE AND CONTENTS