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 typists take to set it 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.

Papers describing experiments with vertebrate animals will be accepted only if the procedures used are clearly described and conform to the British Home Office regulations for avoiding unnecessary suffering to the animals.

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. Submission to Proceedings B requires that authors accept that the Editor has final authority in all matters relating to the acceptability and propriety of publication. 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.

Papers should be submitted initially as typescripts. After a paper has been accepted, authors should submit the final version both on disk and as a typescript. Use of the disk cannot be guaranteed, but will depend on the format, the program used and the nature of the material. MS-DOS and Macintosh disk formats are equally acceptable. In addition to text files, we welcome the submission of electronically prepared artwork on disk.

3. COPY

Papers should be clearly typewritten, with double spacing throughout, on one side of the paper only, with a margin of at least 3 cm all round; all sheets should be numbered serially and securely clipped together. Typescripts must be carefully corrected by authors before being sent in. Spelling should conform to the preferred spelling of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. Footnotes should be avoided.

4. TITLE AND SUMMARY

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 to which author correspondence should be addressed, and giving telephone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail addresses. A very short title (maximum of 50 letters and spaces) suitable for page headings should be given, and up to six index entries should be provided for inclusion in the subject index. The summary should not exceed 200 words, and should be precise and informative.

5. SECTIONS

Papers may be divided into sections, described by short headings. Materials and methods sections should be marked in the margin for small type.

6. UNITS, SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

As far as possible the recommendations contained in Quantities, units, and symbols (1975, The Royal Society, £3.00) 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 P, T r. Marginal indications and differential underlinings should be used where necessary, the normal conventions being followed where applicable, e.g. 4→→→→ 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 December issue of the Proceedings.

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

Proceedings B welcomes the submission of papers containing colour illustrations. However, owing to the high cost of colour reproduction, a charge will be made of £350 for each colour figure. Exemption from charges for colour illustrations will only be made if referees decide colour is essential and if authors make an explicit case to the Editor explaining why they are unable to obtain the necessary funds.

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.

The position of each illustration should be clearly marked in the margin of the typescript.

Line drawings

If possible, authors should supply one set of unlabelled, original line drawings in addition to a set of labelled original drawings. 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 font 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.

Legends

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 ± 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 253 mm × 167 mm. Photographs will be printed with the text, not on plates.

Authors should supply lettered glossy prints marked on the back with the authors’ names, the number of the figure and with the top and bottom indicated. If a single figure contains multiple prints, these should be mounted (ideally on flexible card). Each micrograph must include a scale bar, applied directly to the original, 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 clearly marked in the margin of the typescript.

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/MHz, 10^28 σ/m^3 or q/(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.

11. PROOFS

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 must either inform the Society of their intended whereabouts or make other arrangements for the proofs to be checked quickly. Proof corrections may be returned by fax (the number is 0171-976 1837).

Authors are liable for the cost of excessive alterations to their proofs.

12. OFFPRINTS

Fifty offprints of each paper will be supplied free of charge; further copies may be ordered at extra cost at proof stage.

13. COPYRIGHTS

In order to give the Royal Society authority to deal with matters of copyright, authors will be asked to assign to the Society the copyright in any article published in the journal. In assigning copyright, authors will not be forfeiting the right to use their original material elsewhere subsequently. This may be done without seeking permission and subject only to normal acknowledgement to the journal. However, it would be appreciated if authors would inform the Society in this event.

[September 1995]
FUTURE PAPERS IN PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS SERIES B

Philosophical Transactions: series B publishes original papers in all aspects of the biological sciences, including clinical science. Papers up to 25 000 words long are welcomed, particularly those of an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary nature. Longer papers and reviews are also invited; authors intending to submit these should consult with the Editor at an early stage in preparation. Papers will be published rapidly (normally within six months of receipt).

The January issue of the journal will include the papers listed below.

M. S. Y. Lee
  The phylogeny of varanoid lizards and the affinities of snakes

H. -C. Spatz, H. Beismann, F. Bruchert, A. Emanns & T. Speck
  Biomechanics of the giant reed Arundo donax

V. Ph. Pastushenko & H. Schindler
  Level detection in ion channel records via idealization by statistical filtering and likelihood optimization

Y. Haraguchi & A. Sasaki
  Evolutionary pattern of intra-host pathogen antigenic drift: effect of cross-reactivity in immune response

H. G. Othmer & J. C. Dallon
  A discrete cell model with adaptive signalling for aggregation of dictyostelium discoideum

J. A. Sherratt, B. T. Eagan & M. A. Lewis
  Oscillations and chaos behind predator-prey invasion: mathematical artifact or ecological reality?
FUTURE PAPERS IN PROCEEDINGS SERIES B

Proceedings: series B publishes original papers in all aspects of the biological sciences, including those of an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary nature. Papers up to 4000 words long are welcomed, particularly announcements of important new developments in biology. Reviews containing original and interesting ideas, and criticisms of papers already published, are also invited. Papers will be published rapidly (normally within three months of receipt.)

Future issues of the journal will include the papers listed below.

M. J. Walton
Population structure of harbour porpoises Phocoena phocoena in the seas around the U.K. and adjacent waters
K. Jolst & R. Brandl
Evolution of dispersal: the importance of the temporal order of reproduction and dispersal
L. Favre, F. Balloux, J. Goudet & N. Perrin
Female-biased dispersal in the monogamous mammal Crocidura russula: evidence from field data and microsatellite patterns
J. D. Robertson, J. Bonaventura, A. Kohm & M. Hiscat
Nitric oxide is necessary for visual learning in Octopus vulgaris
M. W. G. Brinkhof & A. J. Cavé
Food supply and seasonal variation in breeding success: an experiment in the European coot
F. Viard, C. Doums & P. Jarne
Selfing, sexual polymorphism and microsatellites in the hermaphroditic freshwater snail
P. A. Prodhöhl, W. J. Lowhry, C. M. McDonough, W. S. Nelson & J. C. Avise
Molecular documentation of polyembryony and the micro-spatial dispersion of clonal sibships in the nine-banded armadillo, Dasypus novemcinctus
P. R. Manger, R. Collins & J. D. Pettigrew
Histological observations on presumed electoreceptors and mechanoreceptors in the beak skin of the long-beaked Echidna, Zaglossus bruijnii
A. White, M. Begon & R. G. Bowers
Explaining the colour of power spectra in chaotic ecological models
D. M. Odorico & D. J. Miller
Internal and external relationships of the Cnidaria: implications of primary and predicted secondary structure of the 5′-end of the 23S-like rDNA
M. Raymond, D. Pontier, A.-B. Dufour & A. P. Møller
Frequency dependent maintenance of left-handedness in humans
R. V. Alatalo, J. Höglund, A. Lundberg, P. T. Rintamäki & B. Silverin
Testosterone and male mating success in black grouse leks
D. W. Zeh, J. A. Zeh & E. Bermingham
Polyandrous, sperm-storing females: carriers of male genotypes through episodes of adverse selection
P. Agnew & J. C. Koella
Virulence, parasite mode of transmission, and host fluctuating asymmetry
V. Vincek, C. O’Huigin, Y. Satta, N. Takahata, P. T. Boag, P. R. Grant, B. R. Grant & J. Klein
How large was the founding population of Darwin’s finches?
E. A. Maguire, R. S. J. Frackowiak & C. D. Frith
Learning to find your way: a role for the human hippocampal region
J. A. Zeh & D. W. Zeh
The evolution of polyandry II: post-copulatory defences against genetic incompatibility
M. A. Beaumont & R. A. Nichols
Evaluating loci for use in the genetic analysis of population structure
R. A. Johnstone
Begging signals and the resolution of parent–offspring conflict
D. M. Hunt, A. J. Hope, J. C. Partridge & K. S. Dulai
Mechanisms of wavelength tuning in the rod opsins of deep-sea fishes

Cover picture from the paper by Zardoya et al. An example of a cichlid fish Cyphotilapia frontosa from Lake Tanganyika, Africa.
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