Aims and ScOPs

Research papers. Proc. R. Soc. B welcomes articles of high quality in all aspects of biology. Generally, it is particularly strong in zoology in the widest sense, and in palaeontology and evolutionary biology. Proc. B also publishes some papers on epidemiology, human biology, neuroscience, palaeontology and biometrics. Authors are encouraged to submit articles only if they arise from these fields, but in all branches of biology. The criteria for selection are scientific excellence, originality and potential interest to a wide spectrum of biologists.

Review papers. The journal also publishes topical reviews in emerging areas of biological sciences that will be of interest to non-specialist readers. Reviews are commissioned for unsolicited submissions will be considered.

Comments papers. Short additions to, or criticisms of, papers already published in this journal are welcome. Articles likely to interest only small groups of specialists, is unlikely that they will be accepted.

Selection criteria

The criteria for selection are scientific excellence, originality and interest across disciplines within biology. The Editors are responsible for all editorial decisions and they make these decisions based on the reports received from the referees and/or Editorial Board members.

Many more good manuscripts are submitted to us than we have space to print, and we give preference to those that present significant advances of broad interest. Submission of preliminary reports, of comments on previous findings, and of articles that are likely to interest only small groups of specialists, is not encouraged. All articles are sent to Editorial Board members for an initial assessment of their suitability, and may be returned to authors without indepth peer review, if this assessment makes it seem unlikely that they will be accepted.

Publishing format

Proc. R. Soc. B articles are published regularly online and in print issues twice a month. Along with all Royal Society journals, we are committed to archiving and providing perpetual access. Although papers are limited to ten journal pages in length (with a per-page charge for articles exceeding six pages), there is the facility for including Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM). Contents of the ESM might include details of methods, derivations of equations, large tables of data, DNA sequences and computer programs.

Selection of articles

Selection criteria

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Cover image: Hidden danger: a cryptic crab spider (Misumena vatia) hides on the petals of an owl’s eye daisy (Dianthus vulgaris). Inp. & Chittka (see pages 2011–2036) discovered that cryptic predators could have strong indirect effects on plants because bumblebees experiencing predation attempts by cryptic spiders learn to avoid not only flowers harbouring the predators, but also other flowers resembling those where they were attacked.