

GUIDANCE FOR AUTHORS

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 articles that merely confirm 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 in-depth 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.

However, the printed version must include enough detail to satisfy most non-specialist readers. Supplementary data up to 10Mb is placed on the Society's website free of charge. Larger datasets must be deposited in recognised public domain databases by the author.

Conditions of publication

Articles must not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. The main findings of the article should not have been reported in the mass media. Like many journals, *Proc. R. Soc. B* employs a strict embargo policy where the reporting of a scientific article by the media is embargoed until a specific time. The Editor-in-Chief has final authority in all matters relating to publication.

Electronic Submission details

The Royal Society's electronic-submission and peer-review service provides *Proc. R. Soc. B* authors with the facility to submit their papers online. The service allows you to upload files in a reliable and user-friendly way, using a Web-based system. When your paper is received, an immediate acknowledgement is sent that details how you can track your contribution online.

For full submission guidelines and access to all journal content please visit the *Proc. R. Soc. B* website, for further details see rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org.

The Royal Society is an independent scientific academy founded in 1660 and self-governing under Royal Charter. The Society has three roles, as the scientific academy of the United Kingdom, as a learned society, and as a funding body.

Objectives of the Royal Society are to

- recognise excellence in science
- support leading-edge scientific research and its applications
- stimulate international interaction
- further the role of science, engineering and technology in society
- promote the public's understanding of science
- provide independent authoritative advice on matters relating to science, engineering and technology
- encourage research into the history of science

For further information on the Society's activities, please contact the following departments on the extensions listed by dialling +44 (0)20 7839 5561, or visit the Society's Web site (royalsociety.org).

Research Support (UK grants and fellowships)

Research appointments: 2547

Research grants: 2539

Conference grants: 2540

Science Advice

General enquiries: 2585

Science Communication

General enquiries: 2572

International Exchanges (for grants enabling research visits between the UK and most other countries (except the USA))

General enquiries: 2550

Library and Information Services

Library/archive enquiries: 2606

Cover image: Clockwise from left: A new fossil bird, *Zhongjianornis yangi*, from the Early Cretaceous (about 120 million years old) lake deposits from Liaoning, China, represents the most basal bird that had completely lost teeth, suggesting that the avian beak appeared independently in several lineages in early avian evolution. The genus and species names both honour the late Professor Zhongjian Yang (Chung-Chien Young), father of Chinese vertebrate paleontology and founder of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. (See pages 219–227; image courtesy of Zhonghe Zhou.) Right lateral view of the skull of the Upper Cretaceous lizard *Tianyusaurus* (NHMG 9316), Jiangxi Province, China. (See pages 331–336; photograph by Mo Jin You.) *Coronocephalus gaoluensis* Wu, 1979; collected and identified by Yuan Wenwei; exoskeleton, P9301224, x1.5; from the Xiushan Formation (Telychian, Llandovery, Silurian) of Yongshun, western Hunan, China. (See pages 257–266.) UV picture showing the soft tissue of the pterosaur *Jeholopterus ningchengensis*. (See pages 321–329; image courtesy of Helmut Tischlinger.)