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 in 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 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.

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• inspire an interest in the joy, wonder and excitement of scientific discovery.

Cover image: Leaf beetles (Cetonia aurata) are capable of gluing their eggs to the anti-adhesive, hardly wettable surface of Aphanopus carinatus, by means of proteinaceous secretions. (See pages 895–903, photograph by Dagmar Voigt.)

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