Aims and Scope

Research papers. Proc. R. Soc. B welcomes articles of high quality in all aspects of biology. Currently, it is particularly strong in ecology in the widest sense, and behavioural and evolutionary biology. Proc. A & C. R. Soc. B has also published significant numbers of papers in epidemiology, human biology, neuroscience, palaeontology and biogeography. Authors are encouraged to submit articles not only in these fields, but also in all areas of biology. The criteria for selection are scientific excellence, originality and potential interest to a wide audience. Articles are accepted on the basis of reviews and subsequent exchange of manuscripts. The issues for all the Royal Societies’ journals are designed to ensure that all the papers selected for publication are of the highest standard.

Convenient papers. Short communications should be no more than five pages long, and should be on topics of general interest. These are refereed and accepted on the basis of reviews and may be returned to the authors for revision. Short communications should be short, interesting and conform to the rules of good manners.

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 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 intended 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 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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Cover image: The Meadow fritillary (Melitaea phoebe) is a butterfly which showed an increase of the second generation in Central Europe after 1980. (See pages 1281–1287, image courtesy of F. Altamir.)

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