

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.

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Cover image: The leafy sea dragon (*Phycodurus eques*) only occurs in southern Australia. These Near Threatened species (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) are protected, but their habitats of kelp and seagrass have been undergoing loss since coastal urbanisation. During mating the female lays eggs onto a special brood patch on the underside of the male's tail where they are fertilised; the males get pregnant and then give birth to live young. (See pages 1409–1415; image courtesy of Jeffrey Jeffords.)