

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, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth, is at the cutting edge of scientific progress. We support many top young scientists, engineers and technologists, influence science policy, debate scientific issues with the public and much more. We are an independent, charitable body and derive our authoritative status from over 1400 Fellows and Foreign Members.

During 2010, we are celebrating the Royal Society's 350th anniversary. As part of this, there will be an exciting programme of activities – exhibitions, lectures, conferences, a new book, a vast science festival on the South Bank in London, television and radio broadcasting and much more besides.

Our mission: to expand knowledge and further the role of science and engineering in making the world a better place.

The Royal Society's strategic priorities are to:

- invest in future scientific leaders and in innovation,
- influence policymaking with the best scientific advice,
- invigorate science and mathematics education,
- increase access to the best science internationally, and
- inspire an interest in the joy, wonder and excitement of scientific discovery.

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 (Fellowships): 2542
Research Grants: 2223
International travel Grants: 2555
Newton International Fellowships: 2559

Science Advice

Science Policy Centre: 2550

Science Communication

General enquiries: 2573

Library and Information Services

Library/archive enquiries: 2606

Cover image: A mimic without a model. *Nonvenomous Sonoran* mountain kingsnakes occur in both sympatry and allopatry with their deadly coral snake model. (See pages 2577–2585; photo by David Pfennig).