Proceedings of the Royal Society B

Aims and Scope
Research papers: Proc. R. Soc. B welcomes articles of high quality in all aspects of biological science, particularly in the following fields: evolutionary biology, ecology, microbiology, genetics, immunology and neuroscience. Articles should be written in an accessible manner, aimed at an international audience of biologists.

Comment papers: Scientifically relevant comment papers, of articles that merely confirm previous findings, and of articles that are likely to interest only small groups of specialists, is unlikely that they will be accepted.

Supporters of the Royal Society
The Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth, is a cutting edge science that will be of interest to non-specialists. Topical reviews are commissioned but are encouraged to submit articles not only in these fields, but in all branches of biology. Currently, it is particularly strong in ecology in the widest sense, and behavioural science that will be of interest to non-specialists. Topical reviews are commissioned but

Selection criteria
The criteria for selection are work of outstanding importance, scientific excellence, originality and interest to a wide spectrum of biologists. 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 page-charge for articles exceeding six pages), there is the facility for including Electronic Supplementary Material (ESMs). Content of the ESM might include details of methods, derivations of equations, large tables of data, DNA sequences and computer programs.

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

Guidance for Authors
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.

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Cover image: A leopard (Panthera pardus) stands out from behind the camouflage of its rosette shaped markings. Allen et al. (p. 1373–1380) show how the parameters of a diffusion-motion field model of feline movement can resolve differences in the appearance of camouflage patterning. (Image courtesy of Cai Priestley, www.toothandclawphotography.com.)