AIMS AND SCOPE
Research papers. Proc. R. Soc. B welcomes articles of outstanding quality in all aspects of biology. Clearly, it is particularly strong in ecology in the widest sense, and behavioural and evolutionary biology. Proc. R. Soc. B also publishes significant numbers of papers in health and disease, palaeontology and biomechanics, as well as in molecular biology and large datasets. All papers in these areas are encouraged to submit articles not only in these fields, but also to all branches of biology. The criteria for selection are: work of outstanding importance, scientific excellence, originality and potential interest in a wide spectrum of biology.

Review papers. The journal also publishes topical reviews in emerging areas of biological science that will be of interest to non-specialists. Review papers are encouraged.

Comment papers should be short, interesting and conform to the rules of good manners.

GUIDANCE FOR AUTHORS
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 recommendations of 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, 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 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.

The Royal Society, the national academy of science of the UK and the Commonwealth, is at the cutting edge of scientific thinking. With support from 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.

Our mission is 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,
• 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 extenstis listed by dialling +44 (0)20 839 55616, or visit the Society’s web site (royalsociety.org).

Research Support (UK grants and fellowships)

Science Policy Centre
General enquiries: 2550 Science Communication
General enquiries: 2573

Library and Information Services
Library and Information Services
Library and Information Services

Cover image: Colony of the ant species Temnothorax angustipennis with a queen, workers and brood. (See pages 2142–2150, image courtesy of A. P. Madzviwa.)