

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 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.

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Cover image: Close-up of a Canarian Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*). This is a unique species due to the striking colour of its face's bare skin and peculiar abilities to break ostrich eggs using stones. Originally distributed throughout the Palearctic, the species has suffered a precipitous decline and it is now considered globally threatened. The Canarian subspecies (*N. p. majorensis*), one of the few persistent insular populations, is particularly endangered and only 200 individuals remain. The results presented by Agudo *et al.* suggest that the reduced genetic diversity of this insular population has a negative impact on the individual fitness, increasing the population extinction risk. (See pages 3241–3249; image courtesy of Manuel de la Riva Pérez.)