ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Description p.1
- Audience p.1
- Impact Factor p.1
- Abstracting and Indexing p.1
- Editorial Board p.2
- Guide for Authors p.3

DESCRIPTION

First published in 1953, Animal Behaviour is a leading international publication and has wide appeal, containing critical reviews, original papers, and research articles on all aspects of animal behaviour. Book Reviews and Books Received sections are also included.

Growing interest in behavioural biology and the international reputation of Animal Behaviour prompted an expansion to monthly publication in 1989. Animal Behaviour continues to be the journal of choice for biologists, ethologists, psychologists, physiologists, and veterinarians with an interest in the subject.

Research Areas include:
- Behavioural ecology
- Evolution of behaviour
- Sociobiology
- Ethology
- Behavioural psychology
- Behavioural physiology
- Population biology
- Sensory behaviour
- Navigation and migration

AUDIENCE

Behaviourists, behavioural ecologists, behavioural neuroscientists, ethologists, evolutionary ecologists

IMPACT FACTOR

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ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

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INTRODUCTION

Types of article

Research papers

*Animal Behaviour* publishes original papers relating to all aspects of the behaviour of animals, including humans. Papers may be field, laboratory or theoretical studies. Preference is given to studies that are likely to be of interest to the broad readership of the Journal and that test explicit hypotheses rather than being purely descriptive.

Reviews

These should address fundamental issues relating to behaviour and provide new insights into the subject(s) they cover. Original interdisciplinary syntheses are especially welcome. Reviews should be no longer than 6000 words (excluding references) and should include an abstract of up to 300 words. In the first instance, a preliminary outline of up to 600 words should be submitted online (see Contact details for submission below). The decision as to whether to proceed to a full review then rests with the Executive Editors or invited advisers. Contributions submitted on this basis will be subjected to the same refereeing process as normal manuscripts.

Commentaries

The Commentaries section of the Journal provides an opportunity to raise issues of general importance to the study of behaviour, including statistical analysis, theory, methodology and ethics. Unless there are clearly broader implications for the study of behaviour as a whole, critiques of particular papers or issues of more local interest should be reserved for the Forum section (see below). Decisions as to whether borderline submissions are more appropriate to the Commentaries or Forum section rest with the Executive Editors. Contributions should be brief, normally not more than six printed pages, and should not contain an abstract. Methodological contributions may be longer, and may contain an abstract, subject to the discretion of the Executive Editors. The initial decision as to prima facie merit rests with the Executive Editors or invited advisers. Contributions with prima facie merit are subjected to the same refereeing process as normal manuscripts, but responses or complementary articles may be solicited by the Executive Editors at their discretion. Other contributions are returned unrefereed to the author(s).

Forum

The Forum section is published on ScienceDirect with contributions listed in the contents of the relevant hardcopy issue and cited as indicated in References below. The section accepts critiques of published papers relevant to the areas of interest of the Journal, and provides an opportunity for constructive exchanges on issues surrounding particular fields of study. Submission, review and acceptance procedures are as for Commentaries (see above), but there is no word limit. In the case of Forum critiques of published papers, the author(s) of the target article must be contacted and trivial points of difference or misunderstanding resolved; this correspondence must be submitted in a cover letter accompanying the Forum article with the knowledge of the author(s) of the target article.

More general correspondence on matters relating to behavioural research is published, unrefereed, in the newsletters of ASAB and ABS. Such correspondence should be sent to the newsletter editors: Dr H. M. Rowland, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EJ, UK (e-mail: asabnewslettereditor@gmail.com) for ASAB; Susan M. Bertram, Department of Biology, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6, Canada (e-mail: Sue_Bertram@carleton.ca) for ABS.

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**Animal welfare**

Animal Welfare

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The usual main headings for Research papers are: Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments and References (no heading is used for the Abstract or Introduction). Papers should not be forced to fit into this pattern of headings, however, if they do not naturally do so. Type main headings in capitals on a separate line on the left of the page. Type subheadings in italics at the left of the page on a separate line, and begin the main words with a capital letter. Type sub-subheadings in italics on a new line, aligned full left. Start the text on a new line after subheadings and sub-subheadings. When presenting multiple experiments, authors may use main headings for the titles of each experiment, with the Methods and Results of each experiment listed as subheadings. Try to keep subheadings short enough to fit within a single column.

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State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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Means and standard errors/standard deviations (and medians and interquartile ranges/confidence limits), with their associated sample sizes, are given in the format X +SE = 10.20+1.01 g, N = 15, not X = 10.20, SE = 1.01, N = 15.

For significance tests, give the name of the test followed by a colon, the test statistic and its value, the degrees of freedom or sample size (whichever is the convention for the test) and the *P* value (note that *F* values have two degrees of freedom). The different parts of the statistical quotation are separated by a comma. Note use of italics for *F*, *P*, *N* and other variables.

If the test statistic is conventionally quoted with degrees of freedom, these are presented as a subscript to the test statistic. For example:

ANOVA: *F*<sub>1,11</sub> = 7.89, *P* = 0.017
Kruskal-Wallis test: *H*<sub>11</sub> = 287.8, *P* = 0.001
Chi-square test: *X*<sup>2</sup> = 0.19, *P* = 0.91
Paired *t* test: *t*<sub>12</sub> = 1.99, *P* = 0.07

If the test is conventionally quoted with the sample size, this should follow the test statistic value. For example:

Spearman rank correlation: *r*<sub>s</sub> = 0.80, N = 11, *P* < 0.01
Wilcoxon signed-ranks test: *T* = 6, N = 14, *P* < 0.01
Mann-Whitney *U* test: *U* = 74, *N*<sub>1</sub> = *N*<sub>2</sub> = 17, *P* < 0.02

*P* values for significant outcomes can be quoted as below a threshold significance value (e.g. *P* < 0.05, 0.01, 0.001), but wherever possible should be quoted as an exact probability value. Departure from a significance threshold of 0.05 should be stated and justified in the Methods. Marginally nonsignificant outcomes can be indicated as exact probability values or as *P* < 0.1. Nonsignificant outcomes should be indicated with an exact probability value whenever possible, or as NS or *P* > 0.05, as appropriate for the test.

State whether a test is one tailed or two tailed (or specific or nonspecific in the case of Meddis' nonparametric ANOVAs). One-tailed (or specific) tests should be used with caution. Their use is justified only when there are strong a priori reasons for predicting the direction of a difference or trend and results in the opposite direction can reasonably be regarded as equivalent to no difference or trend at all. Authors are referred to Kimmel (1957, *Psychological Bulletin*, 54, 315-353).

Do not quote decimals with naked points, for example quote 0.01, not .01, or normally to more than three decimal places (the exception being *P* values for significance tests, which may be quoted to four decimal places where appropriate, e.g. 0.0001).

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