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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 Behaviour has instituted a double-blind peer review process (i.e., where neither the authors' nor the reviewers' identities are known to each other). Reciprocal anonymity is suggested to provide a more objective and potentially less biased assessment of manuscripts, and help ensure that the process is fair to both junior and well-established scientists. The switch to double blind-review

requires some changes to editorial procedures, and we ask potential authors to pay close attention to our revised submission guidelines. Our policy with respect to reviewers is to allow them to waive anonymity if they wish, and in accord with this, authors may also choose to submit their papers without being blinded, giving both authors and reviewers maximum flexibility in how they wish their work and comments to be assessed. *Animal Behaviour* is one of the foremost journals in its field, and the implementation of double-blind review aims at ensuring our reputation for integrity, fairness and openness to new ideas.

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For other general correspondence:

The address of the UK office is: Dr A.K. Turner, Managing Editor, Animal Behaviour Editorial Office, School of Life Sciences, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, U.K. (e-mail: angela.turner@nottingham.ac.uk).

The address of the US office is: Kris Bruner, Managing Editor, Animal Behaviour Editorial Office, Indiana University, 407 N. Park Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47408, U.S.A. (e-mail: krbruner@indiana.edu).

Correspondence about book reviews handled through the North American office should be sent to: Dr P. Loesche, Department of Psychology, Box 351525, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, U.S.A. (e-mail: loes@uw.edu).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing

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Animal welfare

Animal Welfare

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Introduction

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

The Introduction should be brief, not normally exceeding two manuscript pages. Keep references to a minimum by citing reviews rather than primary research papers where appropriate.

Methods

Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

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Ethical Note

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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: $F_{1,11} = 7.89$, $P = 0.017$

Kruskal-Wallis test: $H_{11} = 287.8$, $P = 0.001$

Chi-square test: $\chi^2_2 = 0.19$, $P = 0.91$

Paired t test: $t_{12} = 1.99$, $P = 0.07$

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

Spearman rank correlation: $r_s = 0.80$, $N = 11$, $P < 0.01$

Wilcoxon signed-ranks test: $T = 6$, $N = 14$, $P < 0.01$

Mann-Whitney U test: $U = 74$, $N_1 = N_2 = 17$, $P < 0.02$

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.

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