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DESCRIPTION

*Applied Soil Ecology* addresses the role of soil organisms and their interactions in relation to: sustainability and productivity, nutrient cycling and other soil processes, the maintenance of soil functions, the impact of human activities on soil ecosystems and bio(techno)logical control of soil-inhabiting pests, diseases and weeds.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

*Applied Soil Ecology* addresses the role of soil organisms and their interactions in relation to: agricultural productivity, nutrient cycling and other soil processes, the maintenance of soil structure and fertility, the impact of human activities and xenobiotics on soil ecosystems and bio(techno)logical control of soil-inhabiting pests, diseases and weeds. Such issues are the basis of sustainable agricultural and forestry systems and the long-term conservation of soils in both the temperate and tropical regions.

The disciplines covered include the following, and preference will be given to articles which are interdisciplinary and integrate two or more of these disciplines:

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- soil invertebrate zoology and ecology
- root and rhizosphere ecology
- soil science
- soil biotechnology
- ecotoxicology
- nematology
- entomology
- plant pathology
- agronomy and sustainable agriculture • nutrient cycling • ecosystem modelling and food webs

**Types of paper**

1. Original research papers (Regular Papers)
2. Review articles
3. Short Communications
4. Applied Field Research Article
5. Viewpoints
6. Letters to the Editor
7. Editorials
8. Book Reviews
9. Announcements

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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The Introduction should start broadly followed by an abbreviated review of the key literature related to your research. This is followed by a short presentation of the rationale and the information gaps that the research is filling. Additional justification can be that the research further develops or challenges the findings of others. This leads to clearly stated objective(s) for doing the research. Summaries of experiments, methods or results should not be included in the Introduction and please avoid a detailed literature survey.

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This section should give enough detail to allow a competent scientist to repeat the experiments. This should be presented in a paragraph and full sentence format - typically not in an outline or numbered format. The arrangement of Materials and Methods section can proceed chronologically, but
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For the USDA system, as an example in the text of the Materials and Methods, the text can read as follows - "The soil was a Malabon silty clay loam (Pachic Ultic Argixerolls) (Soil Survey Staff, 2010). Then cited in the Reference Section as follows:

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- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available. **You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.**
Formats
If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format.
Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.
Please do not:
• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
• Supply files that are too low in resolution;
• Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

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Each figure must be submitted on a separate page. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure at the end of the file on a separate page. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration, Captions should explain the data rather than discuss the results of the data. The illustration should be self-explained and be able to stand alone. Therefore, the description should be clear and as complete as possible (i.e. use full species names). Where needed, you may refer to other relevant tables or figures, and consider referring to the text only when the description is too long. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used. Do not use figures that duplicate information in tables. Use font sizes and line weights that will reproduce clearly and accurately. Keep in mind that published figures will be much smaller than your manuscript form. Avoid screening and/or shaded patterns often do not reproduce well; whenever possible, use black lines on a white background in place of shaded patterns. Color figures are acceptable and are the default of the electronic version but this could result in additional surcharges. Use distinct symbol shape for each treatment, not just the differing a change in line thickness or type to differentiate between data.

Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Tables
Each table must be submitted on a separate page. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their first appearance in the text. The titles of tables should be clear and as complete as possible to enable proper understanding of what the table is presenting. Similar to figures, the tables must be self-explanatory and be able to stand alone, including the use of full species names. Always use your word processor's (MS Word is preferred) table feature so that you have defined cells for most if not all entries. DO NOT create tables by using the space bar and/or tab keys. Separate data horizontally with a new row in the body of the table, not with the enter key. Where needed, you may refer to other tables or figures that contain relevant information relevant, and consider referring to the text only in the event that the title becomes too long. Do not duplicate information that is presented in charts or graphs.
Place footnotes to tables and figures below the table body or the figure, and indicate them with superscript symbols. Use the following symbols for footnotes in the order shown: †, ‡, §, #, ††, ‡‡, etc. The symbols *, **, and *** are always used to show statistical significance at the 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 level, respectively, and are not used for other footnotes. Do not use letters as these are reserved for showing the statistical results for multiple means separation analyses.

Vertical lines should never be used in a table. There generally should only be 3 horizontal lines in a table, one at the bottom just below the last row of data and 2 at the top that separates the headers from the body. When a header covers 2 or more subheadings (or columns of data) there should be spanner (line) beneath the heading that spans the subheadings it represents. Units belong in a row of their own, just beneath the column headings, or in row headings. See below a template for how tables should be constructed. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Here is a template for the layout of tables:

Table X. Table titles should be written in words and sentences that are understandable to someone who has not read the text. The table below shows the main components of a typical table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Footnote description of column heading 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Footnote description of column heading 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnote symbols for footnotes in this order - †, ‡, §, #, ††, ‡‡, §§)

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Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either ‘Unpublished results’ or ‘Personal communication’. Citation of a reference as ‘in press’ implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

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List: References should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication.

Examples:
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Reference to a journal publication with an article number:

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Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Reference to a website:

Reference to a dataset:

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