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DESCRIPTION

Note: The Aims and Scope of Carbohydrate Polymers must be complied with in order for submissions to be considered for review and possible publication.

Carbohydrate Polymers is a major journal within the field of glycoscience, and covers the study and exploitation of polysaccharides which have current or potential application in areas such as bioenergy, bioplastics, biomaterials, biorefining, chemistry, drug delivery, food, health, nanotechnology, packaging, paper, pharmaceuticals, medicine, oil recovery, textiles, tissue engineering and wood, and other aspects of glycoscience.

The role of the well-characterized carbohydrate polymer must be the major proportion of the work reported, not a peripheral topic. At least one named carbohydrate polymer must be cited and be the main focus of the paper and its title. Research must be innovative and advance scientific knowledge.

Characterization - For all polysaccharides, including those obtained from a supplier, essential structural information which will affect their behavior in the subsequent work should be given, along with a description of how that information was ascertained. Examples of such essential information include molecular weight, manuronate/guluronate ratio for alginates, degree of esterification for pectin, degree of deacetylation for chitosan. Editors are unlikely to send papers for formal review with a statement such as "sodium alginate was purchased from XXX Inc." unless additional information is supplied. For papers involving synthesis, polysaccharide derivatives must also be well-characterized. For papers describing identity or application of newly-discovered polysaccharides, purity and monosaccharide composition are essential; some molecular size and linkage information is highly desirable.

Hypotheses - Nearly all scientific papers benefit from inclusion of a statement of hypothesis. Such statements should be concise, declarative, and should describe the one or more key hypotheses that the studies upon which the manuscript is based were intended to confirm or refute. Inclusion of a hypothesis statement makes it simple to contrast the hypothesis with the most relevant previous literature and point out what the authors feel is distinct about the current hypothesis (novelty). It also permits the authors to describe why they feel it would be important to prove the hypothesis correct (significance).

Topics of interest to the journal:
- structure-property relationships
- analytical methods
• chemical, enzymatic and physical modifications
• biosynthesis
• natural functions
• interactions with other materials

**Topics not of interest to the journal:**
• biological, physiological and pharmacological aspects of non-carbohydrate molecules attached to, or mixed with, carbohydrate polymers, unless the polysaccharide has a relevant and specific role
• materials science of biocomposites where there is no mention of any specific carbohydrate polymer, or the role of the carbohydrate polymer is not the major proportion of the study
• polyalkanoates, polylactic acid, or lignin
• routine studies of extraction yields without characterisation of the extracted polysaccharide under the different conditions
• routine studies of complexation of a drug with a single cyclodextrin
• studies of newly discovered natural polysaccharides or new polysaccharide derivatives where the structure of the polysaccharide (derivative) is unknown
• production and isolation of enzymes which act on polysaccharides (studies on the mode of action of an enzyme on a polysaccharide are within the journal scope)
• carbohydrate oligomers where the degree of polymerization is less than four
• treatments of cotton fabrics and cellulose-based paper where the research is largely not about the component cellulose itself
• use of carbohydrate polymers as a support material (e.g. in enzyme immobilization, chromatography, etc.) where there is no specific involvement of the chemistry of the carbohydrate polymer.

**AUDIENCE**

University and industrial research institutes; users and manufacturers of carbohydrate polymers.

**IMPACT FACTOR**

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**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING**

BIOSIS Citation Index
Polymer Contents
Science Citation Index
Web of Science
EMBiology
Chemical Abstracts
Current Contents - Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences
Engineering Index
FSTA (Food Science and Technology Abstracts)
Theoretical Chemical Engineering Abstracts
Chemical Engineering Biotechnology Abstracts
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

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Hypothesis? Nearly all scientific papers benefit from inclusion of a statement of hypothesis. Such statements should be clear, concise, and declarative. The statement should describe the one or more key hypotheses that the work described in the manuscript was intended to confirm or refute. Inclusion of a hypothesis statement makes it simple to contrast the hypothesis with the most relevant previous literature and point out what the authors feel is distinct about the current hypothesis (novelty). It also permits the authors to describe why they feel it would be important to prove the hypothesis correct (significance).

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Topics not of interest to the journal: biological, physiological and pharmacological aspects of non-carbohydrate; molecules attached to, or mixed with, carbohydrate polymers, unless the polysaccharide has a relevant and specific role; materials science of bio-composites where there is no mention of any specific carbohydrate polymer, or the role of the carbohydrate polymer is not the major proportion of the study; polyalkanoates, polyactic acid, or lignin; routine studies of extraction yields without characterisation of the extracted polysaccharide under the different conditions; routine studies of complexation of a drug with a single cyclodextrin; studies of newly discovered natural polysaccharides or new polysaccharide derivatives where the structure of the polysaccharide (derivative) is unknown; production and isolation of enzymes which act on polysaccharides (studies on the mode of action of an enzyme on a polysaccharide are within the journal scope); carbohydrate oligomers where the degree of polymerization is less than four; treatments of cotton fabrics and cellulose-based paper where the research is largely not about the component cellulose itself; use of carbohydrate polymers as a support material (e.g. in enzyme immobilization, chromatography, etc.) where there is no specific involvement of the chemistry of the carbohydrate polymer.

Types of paper

Original full-length research papers should contain material that has not been previously published elsewhere, except in a preliminary form. These papers should not exceed 6000 words of text (including references) and generally not more than 10 figures/tables. The same information should not be repeated in a figure and a table.
**Review papers** will be accepted in areas of topical interest and will normally emphasise literature published over the previous five years. They should not exceed 12,000 words (not including references) and should contain no more than 8 figures and 6 Tables. The same information should not be repeated in a figure and a table.

This journal (as do all high impact journals) places a very high bar on acceptance of reviews. This must be the case since a review is not the authors own work but is a representation from the author(s) of recent "high quality" work in an important field and is intended to provide an all-encompassing and in-depth presentation from the author(s) of the recent impactful developments, the opportunities, the failures, the challenges, the interfaces with other disciplines (and how these interfaces affect the science) in the field. Also, review manuscripts should be of the highest quality on initial submission and should not need considerable reworking or language improvements.

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PREPARATION

Peer review
This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor’s decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor’s options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). Carbohydrate Polymers requires authors to include tables and figures in the body of the article at the appropriate position, not at the end of the article. See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Pages must be numbered, and lines must be numbered consecutively throughout the manuscript.

Article structure
(The abstract is not included in section numbering; see specific instructions below.)

Subdivision - numbered sections
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.
Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results. Focus on a number of key references; do not overlook the earlier, seminal work.

Hypotheses
Nearly all scientific papers benefit from inclusion of a statement of hypothesis. Such statements should be clear, concise, and declarative. The statement should describe the one or more key hypotheses that the work described in the manuscript was intended to confirm or refute. Inclusion of a hypothesis statement makes it simple to contrast the hypothesis with the most relevant previous literature and point out what the authors feel is distinct about the current hypothesis (novelty). It also permits the authors to describe why they feel it would be important to prove the hypothesis correct (significance).

Submissions must include a statement of hypothesis and authors will be asked to copy and paste this into the editorial system as part of the submission process. The hypothesis shall be stated in the introductory section, and the conclusion section shall include your conclusion about whether the hypothesis was confirmed or refuted, as well as describing any new hypotheses generated by the work described. Here is an example of a famous, excellent hypothesis statement; declarative, concise, clear, and testable:

"Equal volumes of gases, at the same temperature and pressure, contain equal numbers of molecules."
Lorenzo Romano Amedeo Carlo Avogadro di Quareqa e di Carreto (Avogadro), 1811

Material and methods (or experimental)
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.

Results
A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and description of published literature.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them.

Conclusions
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section. The Conclusion should not be a summary, but should illustrate the advances and claims of innovative aspects of the research work done.

Appendices
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Essential title page information
• Title. Concise, attractive and informative. The title should not exceed 120 characters excluding spaces and should make clear the focus of the paper and the fact that the focus is within the scope of the journal. Specifically name the carbohydrate polymer or group of carbohydrate polymers that is the main focus of the research. Because titles are used in information-retrieval systems, avoid abbreviations and formulae, avoid general terms when specific ones are available, avoid strings of names. Check for syntax and spelling. If your paper is a review paper, please include the word "review" somewhere in the title.
• Author names and affiliations. Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and the e-mail address of each author. Authors must provide and use an email address unique to themselves and not shared with another author registered in EES, or a department. Institutional email addresses, rather than personal email addresses such as gmail, are strongly preferred for all authors who are affiliated to an institution; this is particularly important for the corresponding author.
• **Corresponding author.** *Carbohydrate Polymers* allows only one corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of reviewing and publication, also post-publication. **Ensure that telephone and fax numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be kept up to date by the corresponding author.**

• **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

**Highlights**

Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

A concise and factual abstract is required, and should be a maximum of 150 words in length. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. Numerical values for the most important findings should be reported. An abstract is often presented separately from the article in databases, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, vague terms and references should be avoided. Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

**Graphical abstract**

Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site. Authors can make use of Elsevier's Illustration Services to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

**Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

**Abbreviations**

Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field or approved by learned societies in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article. Abbreviations, except for very common terms (e.g. DNA, NMR), should not be used in the title of the paper.

**Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

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Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.

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Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

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• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
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