DESCRIPTION

Data in Brief provides a way for researchers to easily share and reuse each other's datasets by publishing data articles that:

Thoroughly describe your data, facilitating reproducibility. Make your data, which is often buried in supplementary material, easier to find. Increase traffic towards associated research articles and data, leading to more citations. Open up doors for new collaborations.

Because you never know what data will be useful to someone else, Data in Brief welcomes submissions that describe data from all research areas. Please note: almost any piece of information can be defined as data. However, to merit publication in Data in Brief data should be a set of information that are acquired/collected with a scientific method and have value to the research community. Please see 'What data are suitable for Data in Brief?' for more details.

Authors submitting to Data in Brief should use this template to write their manuscript.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

PubMed Central
PubMed/Medline
Scopus
Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editors-in-Chief
Hao-Ran Wang, Neoland Biosciences, Medford, Massachusetts, United States
Ganhui Lan, Covance Inc, Warwick, Pennsylvania, United States

Deputy Editor-in-Chief
Stamatis Zoras, University of Derby, Derby, United Kingdom

Managing Editors
Ilaria Carnevale
Sahar Farajnia
**Section Editors**

**Agricultural Science**
Magda Pál, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre for Agricultural Research, Martonvasar, Hungary

**Biochemistry and Immunology**
Nicholas A. Pullen, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado, United States

**Business, Management and Accounting**
Joseph Yui-yip Lau, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong

**Chemistry**
Paolo Bertoncello, Swansea University, Swansea, United Kingdom

**Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence**
Niko Lukač, University of Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia

**Earth and Planetary Sciences**
Chaosheng Zhang, National University of Ireland Galway, Galway, Ireland

**Economics**
Larisa Yarovaya, University of Southampton Centre for Digital Finance, Southampton, United Kingdom

**Energy**
Maria Malvoni, National Technical University of Athens School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, ATHINA, Greece

**Engineering**
Maria Grazia De Giorgi, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy

**Genetics, Genomics and Molecular Biology**
Giulio Chiesa, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

**Environmental Sciences**
Yolanda Pico, University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

**Mathematics and Physics**
Bo Li, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

**Materials Science: Chemistry**
Anton Oliynyk, Manhattan College, Riverdale, New York, United States

**Materials Science: Materials Informatics**
Taylor D. Sparks, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States

**Medicine and Public Health**
Iain Brownlee, Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom

**Microbiology**
Rasha Maal-Bared, EPCOR, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Neuroscience**
Joseph D. Zak, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

**Pharmacology, Toxicology, Pharmaceutical Sciences**
Luisa Camacho, US Food and Drug Administration, Jefferson, Arkansas, United States

**Proteomics**
Nico Jehmlich, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Leipzig, Germany

**Psychology and Psychiatry**
Teddy J. Akiki, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, United States

**Social Psychology**
James W. Fryer, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, New York, United States

**Social Science**
W. Christopher Carleton, Max-Planck-Institute for Chemical Ecology, Jena, Germany
Zoology

Stephanie A. Poindexter, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

Editorial Board

Canan Acar, Bahcesehir University, İstanbul, Turkey
Georgios S.E. Antipas, Paul Scherrer Institute, Villigen, Switzerland
Sebastian Aparicio, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom
J. Fernando Ayala-Zavala, Center for Food Research and Development Emerging Technologies Laboratory, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico
Takashi Azuma, Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Takatsuki, Japan
Cristina Baglio, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy
Georgios Bartzas, Ethnikó Metsóbio Polytechnio, Athens, Greece
Chandra Sekhar Bathula, Louisiana State University Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, United States
Alexssandro Geferson Becker, Federal University of Paraíba, Curitiba, Brazil
Deepayan Bhowmik, University of Stirling, Stirling, United Kingdom
Terrence Blackburne, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States
Julian Blasco, Institute of Marine Science of Andalucia, Puerto Real, Spain
Wulaer Bolati, Fujita Health University, Toyoake, Japan
Christian Brand, University of Vienna, Wien, Austria
Anabela Cachada, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal
Marco António Campinho, Centre of Marine Sciences, Faro, Portugal
Angelo Canale, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy
Carmen Cavallo, Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden
Yassine Chaibi, Moroccan School of Engineering Sciences Department of Electrical Engineering, Rabat, Morocco
Anurag Chaurasia, National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms, Maunath Bhanjan, India
Vasilia Christidou, University of Thessaly Department of Early Childhood Education, Volos, Greece
Paolo Maria Congedo, University of Salento, Lecce, Italy
Alessandro Coppola, University Hospital Agostino Gemelli, Rome, Italy
Stefano Coppola, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands
Adam Croom, University of California Merced, Merced, California, United States
Xinyi (Lizzy) Cui, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
Samantha M. Darne, University of Bath Department of Education, Bath, United Kingdom
Ashish Dhir, University of California Davis Medical Center, Davis, California, United States
José G. Dórea, University of Brasilia, Brasilia, Brazil
Paula Duarte-Guterman, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Lars Ebert, University of Zurich, Zürich, Switzerland
Michael H. Farkas, University at Buffalo - The State University of New York, Buffalo, New York, United States
Iztok Fister Jr., University of Maribor Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Institute of Informatics, Maribor, Slovenia
Yuuki Fujiwara, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry National Institute of Neuroscience, Tokyo, Japan
Matteo D. Gallidabino, Northumbria University Department of Applied Sciences, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom
Archan Ganguly, University of California San Diego Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, La Jolla, California, United States
Vural Gökmen, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
Daren Gooddy, British Geological Survey - Wallingford Office, Wallingford, United Kingdom
Daniel Granato, Natural Resources Institute Finland, HELSINKI, Finland
Jyotasana Gulati, Alkahest Inc, San Carlos, California, United States
Fei Han, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University, Shenyang, China
David Hernandez, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, New York, New York, United States
Tao Huan, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Tanya Hua, National Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Rochester, Minnesota, United States
Begoña Jiménez, Spanish Scientific Research Council, Madrid, Spain
Erin Kane, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
Kurunthachalam Kannan, University at Albany State University of New York, Albany, New York, United States
Nerantzis Kazakis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece
John F. Kennedy, Chembiotech Laboratories Ltd, Tenbury Wells, United Kingdom
Ki-Hyun Kim, Hanyang University College of Engineering Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Seongdong-gu, Korea, Republic of
Priyan Malarvizhi Kumar, Middlesex University, London, United Kingdom
Vivek Kumar, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, United States
Giorgia La Barbera, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Yu Li, South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China
Heng Liang, Harbin Institute of Technology, School of Environment, Harbin, China
Fuchen Liu, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, United States
Andrew Woodham, Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
Chuanhong Wu, Qingdao University, Qingdao, China
Dazhi Yang, Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology, Singapore, Singapore
Dejun Yang, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States
Kuo-Hui Yeh, National Dong Hwa University - Meilun Campus, Hualien, Taiwan
Chunbo Zhang, Nanchang University, Nanchang, China
Yanlong Zhu, University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States

Algal Announcements Section Editor
Hector De la Hoz Siegler, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Algal Announcement Editorial Board Members
Timothy Davis, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, United States
Kenneth Reardon, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States
INTRODUCTION

Data in Brief only publishes Data in Brief data articles that describe research data you've made publicly available either through a repository or directly in your Data in Brief article. These articles ensure that your data, which is often buried in supplementary material, is actively peer-reviewed, curated, formatted, indexed, given a DOI and publicly available to all upon publication. All Data in Brief submissions must contain data produced and owned by either the author or the author's institution. Data in Brief will not accept any submissions that contain datasets with scant variables or samples.

Article Structure

We ask all authors to use our Data in Brief template when preparing their manuscript. All Data in Brief articles must contain the following sections:

Title, authors and author affiliations
Abstract
A completed Specifications Table
3-5 bullet points that explain why the data is valuable to other researchers
A direct link to the deposited data (when applicable)
A complete description of the experimental design and materials and methods
References

Submit your own Data in Brief

To submit a Data in Brief article directly to Data in Brief: Fill in this template. Submit the document along with any computer code used to analyze the data through the journal's online submission system. Important: choose 'Data Article' as the article type when submitting directly, even if your data article is linked to another publication.

OR to submit via another Elsevier journal (a Co-submission):

Fill in this template Submit your Data in Brief article, alongside your original research article to your Elsevier journal of choice. Upon acceptance of your article, your Data in Brief article will be sent to Data in Brief for editorial review and publication. This step by step video guide will also tell you how to complete the template correctly to maximise your chances of acceptance.

Algal Announcements Article Collection

Data in Brief is partnering with Algal Research and Harmful Algae for data announcements to the algal research community including announcements of Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) as well as announcements of new algal strains. The objective is to provide freely available information that will benefit researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, water managers, engineers and other readers. As this is a different type of data article, a new article type has been created called "Algal Announcement" and it is intended to communicate the following: New algae strains (including macroalgae, microalgae, and cyanobacteria) and their biological and biochemical characteristics, as well as their isolation or collection, identification, culturing, and molecular profiles. These may include new isolates from prospecting studies or from environments where the algae were found/isolated in conjunction with other organisms. Harmful algal blooms announcements, including location, the number of samplings, the date(s) of collection, water quality data and description of toxins.

Authors who wish to submit an Algal Announcement article should use this template to prepare their manuscript and select the article type "Algal Announcement" article type when submitting their manuscript.

Submission Checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:
Manuscript:
• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations
• Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
• Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The Data in Brief peer review process
Because Data in Brief articles are pure descriptions of data they are reviewed differently than a typical research article. The Data in Brief peer review process focuses on data transparency.

Reviewers review manuscripts based on the following criteria: Do the description and data make sense? Do the authors adequately explain its utility to the community? Are the protocol/references for generating data adequate? Data format (is it standard? potentially re-usable?) Does the article follow the Data in Brief template? Is the data well documented?

Data in Brief that are converted supplementary files submitted alongside a research article via another Elsevier journal are editorially reviewed by the Data in Brief editor. In these cases, the supporting data has already been peer reviewed as a part of the research article peer review process. The Data in Brief editor then performs a final review on the Data in Brief article using the same criteria mentioned above before the Data in Brief may be accepted for publication.

Ethics in publishing
Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

Studies in humans and animals
If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Institutes of Health guide for the care and use of Laboratory animals (NIH Publications No. 8023, revised 1978) and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

Declaration of interest
All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent...
Applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors should complete the declaration of interest statement during the submission process under Additional Questionnaire. This statement will be published within the article if accepted.

Submission declaration and verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

Use of inclusive language
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Articles should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader, should contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of race, sex, culture or any other characteristic, and should use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, for instance by using 'he or she', 'his/her' instead of 'he' or 'his', and by making use of job titles that are free of stereotyping (e.g. 'chairperson' instead of 'chairman' and 'flight attendant' instead of 'stewardess').

Author contributions
For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. More details and an example

Changes to authorship
Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' (see more information on this). Permitted third party reuse of open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.
Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Open access
Please visit our Open Access page from the Journal Homepage for more information.

Elsevier Researcher Academy
Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's Author Services.

Submission
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via http://ees.elsevier.com/dib/.

Referees
Please submit the names and institutional e-mail addresses of several potential referees. For more details, visit our Support site. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

PREPARATION

Peer review
This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions are 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). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. 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.

Highlights
Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they 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).

**Abbreviations**
Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field 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.

**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.).

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

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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

**Math formulae**
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).

**Embedded math equations**
If you are submitting an article prepared with Microsoft Word containing embedded math equations then please read this (related support information).

**Footnotes**
Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article.

**Artwork**

**Electronic artwork**

**General points**
- 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.

**Color artwork**
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. **For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article.** Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

**Illustration services**
Elsevier's Author Services offers Illustration Services to authors preparing to submit a manuscript but concerned about the quality of the images accompanying their article. Elsevier's expert illustrators can produce scientific, technical and medical-style images, as well as a full range of charts, tables and graphs. Image 'polishing' is also available, where our illustrators take your image(s) and improve them to a professional standard. Please visit the website to find out more.

**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**
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

**References**

Citation in text
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.
Reference links
Increased discoverability of research and high quality peer review are ensured by online links to the sources cited. In order to allow us to create links to abstracting and indexing services, such as Scopus, CrossRef and PubMed, please ensure that data provided in the references are correct. Please note that incorrect surnames, journal/book titles, publication year and pagination may prevent link creation. When copying references, please be careful as they may already contain errors. Use of the DOI is highly encouraged.

A DOI is guaranteed never to change, so you can use it as a permanent link to any electronic article. An example of a citation using DOI for an article not yet in an issue is: VanDecar J.C., Russo R.M., James D.E., Ambeh W.B., Franke M. (2003). Aseismic continuation of the Lesser Antilles slab beneath northeastern Venezuela. Journal of Geophysical Research, https://doi.org/10.1029/2001JB000884. Please note the format of such citations should be in the same style as all other references in the paper.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal's style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:
http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/data-in-brief
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

Reference style
Text: Indicate references by number(s) in square brackets in line with the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given.
Example: '..... as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result ....'
List: Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.
Examples:
Reference to a journal publication:
Reference to a journal publication with an article number:
Reference to a book:
Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Reference to a website:

Reference to a dataset:

Journal abbreviations source
Journal names should be abbreviated according to the List of Title Word Abbreviations.

Video data
Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences as a part of your data article. Authors who would like to describe video or animation files in their data article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content.

In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the files in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: http://www.sciencedirect.com. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages at https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the .pdf version of the article, please provide text for both the electronic (.html) and the .pdf version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

Supplementary material
Authors may either upload their data into an appropriate data repository, or publish it as supplementary material alongside their data article. Supplementary files supplied will be published online alongside the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect: http://www.sciencedirect.com. In order to ensure that your submitted material is directly usable, please provide the data in one of our recommended file formats, or ensure that, if it is in another format, the file(s) is/are bundled into a .zip file. Authors should submit the material in electronic format together with the article and supply a concise and descriptive caption for each file. For more detailed instructions please visit our artwork instruction pages at https://www.elsevier.com/artworkinstructions.

For data submitted as supplementary material, there is a limit 500MB. Special accommodations can be made for larger files, on a case-by-case basis.

Data linking
If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.

In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

AFTER ACCEPTANCE
**Online proof correction**

To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.

If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

**Offprints**

The corresponding author will be notified and receive a link to the published version of the open access article on ScienceDirect. This link is in the form of an article DOI link which can be shared via email and social networks. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via Elsevier's Author Services.

**Additional information**

Questions, ask the managing editors, Ilaria Carnevale/Sahar Farajnia, at dib-me@elsevier.com

**AUTHOR INQUIRIES**

Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.