



GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

●	Description	p.1
●	Impact Factor	p.2
●	Abstracting and Indexing	p.2
●	Editorial Board	p.2
●	Guide for Authors	p.4



ISSN: 0016-6480

DESCRIPTION

General and Comparative Endocrinology publishes articles concerned with the many complexities of vertebrate and invertebrate **endocrine systems** at the sub-molecular, molecular, cellular and organismal levels of analysis. Although by no means comprehensive, [submission](#) of manuscripts in the following areas of **endocrine science** are encouraged:

- endocrine regulation and interactions in physiological processes ("systems" biology - reproduction, body fluid homeostasis, skeletal and calcium homeostasis; gastrointestinal function; integumentary function; neurophysiology; cardiovascular function etc);
- endocrine pharmacology;
- the role of gene expression in endocrine systems;
- behavioral endocrinology;
- developmental endocrinology;
- growth factors;
- endocrine- environmental interactions;
- immuno-endocrine interactions;
- neuroendocrinology, neuropeptides, neurotransmitters;
- hormonal receptors;
- molecular evolution of hormones and gene families.
- Comparative Molecular Analyses
 - Genomics
 - Proteomics
 - Transcriptomics
 - Metabolomics

Manuscripts that advance understanding within and between these broad disciplines are especially encouraged.

Benefits to authors

We also provide many author benefits, such as free PDFs, a liberal copyright policy, special discounts on Elsevier publications and much more. Please click [here](#) for more information on our [author services](#).

Please see our [Guide for Authors](#) for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our [Support Center](#)

IMPACT FACTOR

2015: 2.667 © Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports 2016

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

Abstracts in Anthropology
Animal Behaviour Abstracts
Articles First (OCLC Database)
BIOBASE
Current Contents
MEDLINE®
International Nuclear Information System (INIS)
EBSCOhost
EMBASE
National Library of Medicine
PubMed
Sage Publications
Web of Science
Biological Abstracts
CABI Information
BIOSIS Previews
Chemical Abstracts Service
Scopus
Science Citation Index Expanded
Zoological Record
Gale
ProQuest

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editors-in-Chief

D.M. Power, FCT ed 8, Universidade do Algarve, Campus de Gambelas, 8005 - 139, Faro, Portugal
M.A. Sheridan, Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 41030, Lubbock, Texas, 79409-1030, USA

Associate Editors

N.R. Bury, University of Suffolk, Ipswich, UK
A. Canario, Universidade do Algarve, Faro, Portugal
O. Carnevali, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy
J. Chang, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
R. Denver, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
R.M. Dores, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, USA
R. Londrville, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, USA
S.D. McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Turners Falls, Massachusetts, USA
I.T. Moore, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA
M.C.S. Peter, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, India
R. Pierantoni, Seconda Università degli Studi di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
J. Pitman, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand
L.M. Romero, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts, USA
R. W. Schulz, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands
A. Takahashi, Kitasato University, Ofunato, Iwate, Japan
V. Trudeau, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K. Tsutsui, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
S. Unniappan, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
G. Van Der Kraak, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada
J. Vanden Broeck, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
H. Volkoff, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada
R.D. Watson, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Editorial Board:

S.K. Boyd, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, USA
D. Bradshaw, University of Western Australia, Crawley, Western Australia, Australia

J. Carr, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA
K.C. Chow, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
J. F. Cockrem, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand
J.M. Conlon, Ulster University, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland, UK
D. Crews, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
J. Danks, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia
A. DeLoof, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
P. Deviche, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, USA
C. Duan, LSA Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
E. Eppler, Universität Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland
W. Ge, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, New Territories, Hong Kong
F.G. Gracia-Navarro, Universidad de Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain
H.R. Habibi, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T.B. Hayes, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA
D. Larhammar, Uppsala Universitet, Uppsala, Sweden
R.P. Millar, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
I.S. Parhar, Monash University Malaysia, Selangor, Malaysia
R. Patiño, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA
J.Y. Seong, Korea University, Seongbuk-Gu, Seoul, The Republic of Korea
P.J. Sharp, Monash University, Midlothian, UK
S. Sower, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, USA
Y. Takei, University of Tokyo, Chiba, Japan
P. Thomas, University of Texas at Austin, Port Aransas, Texas, USA
S. Tobe, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
H. Vaudry, Université de Rouen, Mont-Saint-Aignan, France
J. Wingfield, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA
Y. Zhu, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA
Y. Zohar, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

General and Comparative Endocrinology publishes articles concerned with the many complexities of vertebrate and invertebrate endocrine systems at the sub-molecular, molecular, cellular and organismal levels of analysis. Although by no means comprehensive, submission of manuscripts in the following areas of endocrine science are encouraged:

- endocrine regulation and interactions in physiological processes ("systems" biology - reproduction, body fluid homeostasis, skeletal and calcium homeostasis; gastrointestinal function; integumentary function; neurophysiology; cardiovascular function etc);
- endocrine pharmacology;
- the role of gene expression in endocrine systems;
- behavioral endocrinology;
- developmental endocrinology;
- growth factors;
- endocrine- environmental interactions;
- immuno-endocrine interactions;
- neuroendocrinology, neuropeptides, neurotransmitters;
- hormonal receptors;
- molecular evolution of hormones and gene families.

Comparative Molecular Analyses

- Genomics
- Proteomics
- Transcriptomics
- Metabolomics

Manuscripts that advance understanding within and between these broad disciplines are especially encouraged.

General and Comparative Endocrinology will consider for publication of research articles that address endocrinology in its widest sense, i.e. both among, and within, living organisms - vertebrate, invertebrate and plant - including their evolutionary antecedents. Original and novel information in acute, and in the longer term, evolutionary adaptive homeostasis are of especial interest to the journal.

The European Society for Comparative Endocrinology, North American Society for Comparative Endocrinology, The Division of Comparative Endocrinology of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, the Asia and Oceania Society for Comparative Endocrinology and the Japan Society for Comparative Endocrinology are affiliated to *General and Comparative Endocrinology*.

Types of article

Regular article - Full-length original research papers, reporting novel findings in all endocrinology related fields.

Short Communications – these are articles that present a new technique, idea or concept and are typically 10 double spaced pages in length.

Communications in Comparative Molecular Analyses - these are original research manuscripts ranging from 10 to 24 double spaced pages which report studies deploying any kind of "omics" technologies, which are relevant to the endocrine literature (i.e., results of small to high throughput studies). Manuscripts can report the analysis of primary data or in silico analysis or meta-analysis of data deposited in databases and should frame the significance of the data in light of comparative endocrinology and endocrine function.

Review - topics of interest to its broad readership. Review submissions are typically 20-25 double spaced pages in length.

Mini-Review - are focused on a particular topic of interest. Mini-reviews submissions are typically 12 double spaced pages in length.

Editorial – these are typically preface to Special Issues but we welcome suggestions for opinion pieces that discuss issues (scientific, social or political) that affect research in the community. Either type of editorial should be 2 to 3 double spaced pages.

Book reviews – This is a brief essay of 2 double spaced pages critically evaluating the contribution of a recently published book. We also welcome book review essays revolving around descriptions and critiques of a group of published books that serves as springboards for discussions of topics that emerge as one considers overlaps and gaps between the books in question. The length should be commensurate with the number of books reviewed (eg. 2 books would be 4 double spaced pages).

Memorials – of notable comparative endocrinologists, outlining their career and indicating their main contributions to the field. The length should be up to 2 double spaced pages and include a photograph.

Special Issues - The journal welcomes proposals for special issues on topics that fall within the scope of the journal. Those wishing to guest edit a special issue should prepare a proposal that:

- Sets out the importance of the area and explains the anticipated contribution of the special issue in advancing understanding in this area
- Identifies papers and authors for possible inclusion in the special issue and an indication of the time-scale in which the special issue could be produced.

Proposals should be sent to EiC Professor Robert Dores, robert.dores@du.edu

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)
- Relevant declarations of interest have been made
- 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

Ethics in publishing

Please see our information pages on [Ethics in publishing](#) and [Ethical guidelines for journal publication](#).

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 conflicts of interest include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. If there are no conflicts of interest then please state this: 'Conflicts of interest: none'. [More information](#).

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 or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see '[Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication](#)' section of our ethics policy 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 [CrossCheck](#).

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.

Article transfer service

This journal is part of our Article Transfer Service. This means that if the Editor feels your article is more suitable in one of our other participating journals, then you may be asked to consider transferring the article to one of those. If you agree, your article will be transferred automatically on your behalf with no need to reformat. Please note that your article will be reviewed again by the new journal. [More information](#).

Copyright

Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see [more information](#) on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. [Permission](#) of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has [preprinted forms](#) for use by authors in these cases.

For open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete an 'Exclusive License Agreement' ([more information](#)). 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.

Funding body agreements and policies

Elsevier has established agreements and developed policies to allow authors whose articles appear in journals published by Elsevier, to comply with potential manuscript archiving requirements as specified as conditions of their grant awards. To learn more about existing agreements and policies please visit <http://www.elsevier.com/fundingbodies>.

US National Institutes of Health (NIH) voluntary posting (" Public Access") policy.

As a service to our authors, Elsevier will deposit to PubMed Central (PMC) author manuscripts on behalf of Elsevier authors reporting NIH funded research. This service is a continuation of Elsevier's 2005 agreement with the NIH when the NIH introduced their voluntary 'Public Access Policy.'

The service will help authors comply with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) revised "Public Access Policy," effective April 7, 2008. The NIH's revised policy requires that NIH-funded authors submit to PubMed Central (PMC), or have submitted on their behalf, their peer-reviewed author manuscripts, to appear on PMC no later than 12 months after final publication.

Elsevier will send to PMC the final peer-reviewed manuscript, which was accepted for publication and sent to Elsevier's production department, and that reflects any author-agreed changes made in response to peer-review comments. Elsevier will authorize the author manuscript's public access posting 12 months after final publication. Following the deposit by Elsevier, authors will receive further communications from Elsevier and NIH with respect to the submission.

Authors are also welcome to post their accepted author manuscript on their personal or institutional web site. Please note that consistent with Elsevier's author agreement, authors should not post manuscripts directly to PMC or other third party sites. Individual modifications to this general policy may apply to some Elsevier journals and society publishing partners.

As a leading publisher of scientific, technical and medical (STM) journals, Elsevier has led the industry in developing tools, programs and partnerships that provide greater access to, and understanding of, the vast global body of STM information. This service is an example of Elsevier willingness to work cooperatively to meet the needs of all participants in the STM publishing community.

Open access

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

Open access

- Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.
- An open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution.

Subscription

- Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our [universal access programs](#).
- No open access publication fee payable by authors.

Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

For open access articles, permitted third party (re)use is defined by the following [Creative Commons user licenses](#):

Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)

Lets others distribute and copy the article, create extracts, abstracts, and other revised versions, adaptations or derivative works of or from an article (such as a translation), include in a collective work (such as an anthology), text or data mine the article, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the author(s), do not represent the author as endorsing their adaptation of the article, and do not modify the article in such a way as to damage the author's honor or reputation.

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)

For non-commercial purposes, lets others distribute and copy the article, and to include in a collective work (such as an anthology), as long as they credit the author(s) and provided they do not alter or modify the article.

The open access publication fee for this journal is **USD 3000**, excluding taxes. Learn more about Elsevier's pricing policy: <http://www.elsevier.com/openaccesspricing>.

Green open access

Authors can share their research in a variety of different ways and Elsevier has a number of green open access options available. We recommend authors see our [green open access page](#) for further information. Authors can also self-archive their manuscripts immediately and enable public access from their institution's repository after an embargo period. This is the version that has been accepted for publication and which typically includes author-incorporated changes suggested during submission, peer review and in editor-author communications. Embargo period: For subscription articles, an appropriate amount of time is needed for journals to deliver value to subscribing customers before an article becomes freely available to the public. This is the embargo period and it begins from the date the article is formally published online in its final and fully citable form. [Find out more](#).

This journal has an embargo period of 12 months.

Elsevier Publishing Campus

The Elsevier Publishing Campus (www.publishingcampus.com) is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice to support you in publishing your research. The College of Skills training offers modules on how to prepare, write and structure your article and explains how editors will look at your paper when it is submitted for publication. Use these resources, and more, to ensure that your submission will be the best that you can make it.

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 WebShop.

Submission

Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. To submit your article please got to <http://ees.elsevier.com/gce>. The system automatically converts source files to a single PDF file of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF files at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail removing the need for a paper trail.

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 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](#).

Article structure

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.

Material and 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.

Material and methods Guidelines for Immunohistochemistry & RTqPCR assays

1. Immunohistochemistry

In the Methods section, for antibodies it is important to indicate the origin (eg. human, rat, fish) and sequence of the immunogen against which the animal was immunized. If using commercially generated antisera provide the name of company that made the antisera, the species that was immunized and whether the reagent is a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody. It is important to provide characterization information which can include Western blot analysis, radioimmunoassay or ELISA. Reference to previous publications is acceptable as long as the above characterizations have been performed in those publications. Controls may include pre-adsorption with the original antigen if the antigen is available and/or incubation with secondary antibody only. For analyses that involve transfected cells, the controls should include: incubation of the non-transfected cell line with primary and secondary antibody, and incubation of the transfected cells with secondary antibody only.

2. What to look for when evaluating reviewers comments about real time quantitative PCR (RTqPCR) assays

There is considerable debate and an ever growing literature about the "best way" to perform real time quantitative PCR (RTqPCR). One publication which gives extensive and helpful guidelines about RTqPCR is Nolan et al., 2006 Nature protocols 1; 1559 and if you are looking for formal guidelines and recommendations consult Clinical Chemistry (Bustin et al., 2009 55, 611). Some simple guidelines:

1. The Dnase treatment and protocol should be indicated.
2. The primers chosen for reverse transcription should be indicated.
3. The RTqPCR primers and probe sequence (if used), the amplicon size along with the mix and supplier should be indicated.
4. The sequence accession number should be provided.
5. Steps taken to optimize and validate RTqPCR assays should be indicated (eg. primer concentration, MgCl₂ concentration, dNTP concentration, melt temperature) and melting curve dynamics and absence of primer dimers should be confirmed.
6. The complete RTqPCR thermocycle should be provided.
7. The specificity of the RTqPCR assay should have been established by sequencing the reaction product at least once.
8. The efficiency of the PCR reaction should be indicated (theoretically 100%), as should the method of validation (eg. cDNA or standard dilution curves).
9. The choice of gene(s) for normalization should be justified and they should be referred to as reference genes and not as housekeeping genes. The method of normalization should be provided.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

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.

Essential title page information

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. 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, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are 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.

Abstract

A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). 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 and Enhancement service to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements: [Illustration Service](#).

Highlights

Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and 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). You can view [example Highlights](#) on our information site.

Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, provide a 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 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.

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.

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.](#)

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.

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.

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](#) and [Zotero](#), as well as [EndNote](#). Using the word processor 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.

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/general-and-comparative-endocrinology>

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: All citations in the text should refer to:

1. *Single author:* the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication;
2. *Two authors:* both authors' names and the year of publication;
3. *Three or more authors:* first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication.

Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references should be listed first alphabetically, then chronologically.

Examples: 'as demonstrated (Allan, 2000a, 2000b, 1999; Allan and Jones, 1999). Kramer et al. (2010) have recently shown'

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:

Reference to a journal publication:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J.A.J., Lupton, R.A., 2010. The art of writing a scientific article. *J. Sci. Commun.* 163, 51–59.

Reference to a book:

Strunk Jr, W., White, E.B., 2000. *The Elements of Style*, fourth ed. Longman, New York.

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Mettam, G.R., Adams, L.B., 2009. How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: Jones, B.S., Smith, R.Z. (Eds.), *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. E-Publishing Inc., New York, pp. 281–304.

Reference to a website:

Cancer Research UK, 1975. Cancer statistics reports for the UK. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/cancerstatsreport/> (accessed 13.03.03).

Reference to a dataset:

[dataset] Oguro, M., Imahiro, S., Saito, S., Nakashizuka, T., 2015. Mortality data for Japanese oak wilt disease and surrounding forest compositions. Mendeley Data, v1. <https://doi.org/10.17632/xwj98nb39r.1>.

Journal abbreviations source

Journal names should be abbreviated according to:

List of title word abbreviations: <http://www.issn.org/2-22661-LTWA-online.php>; NLM Catalog (Journals referenced in the NCBI Databases): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>;

CAS (Chemical Abstracts Service): via <http://www.cas.org/content/references/corejournals>.

Video

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their 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](#). 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](#). Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

Supplementary material

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

RESEARCH DATA

This journal encourages and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. If you are sharing data in one of these ways, you are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the [research data](#) page.

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 give 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).

Data in Brief

You have the option of converting any or all parts of your supplementary or additional raw data into one or multiple data articles, a new kind of article that houses and describes your data. Data articles ensure that your data is actively reviewed, curated, formatted, indexed, given a DOI and publicly available to all upon publication. You are encouraged to submit your article for *Data in Brief* as an additional item directly alongside the revised version of your manuscript. If your research article is accepted, your data article will automatically be transferred over to *Data in Brief* where it will be editorially reviewed and published in the open access data journal, *Data in Brief*. Please note an open access fee is payable for publication in *Data in Brief*. Full details can be found on the [Data in Brief website](#). Please use [this template](#) to write your Data in Brief.

ARTICLE ENRICHMENTS

AudioSlides

The journal encourages authors to create an AudioSlides presentation with their published article. AudioSlides are brief, webinar-style presentations that are shown next to the online article on ScienceDirect. This gives authors the opportunity to summarize their research in their own words and to help readers understand what the paper is about. [More information and examples are available](#). Authors of this journal will automatically receive an invitation e-mail to create an AudioSlides presentation after acceptance of their paper.

Interactive Phylogenetic Trees

You can enrich your online articles by providing phylogenetic tree data files (optional) in Newick or NeXML format, which will be visualized using the interactive tree viewer embedded within the online article. Using the viewer it will be possible to zoom into certain tree areas, change the tree layout, search within the tree, and collapse/expand tree nodes and branches. Submitted tree files will also be available for downloading from your online article on ScienceDirect. Each tree must be contained in an individual data file before being uploaded separately to the online submission system, via the 'phylogenetic tree data' submission category. Newick files must have the extension .new or .nwk (note that a semicolon is needed to end the tree). Please do not enclose comments in Newick files and also delete any artificial line breaks within the tree data because these will stop the tree from showing. For NeXML, the file extension should be .xml. Please do not enclose comments in the file. Tree data submitted with other file extensions will not be processed. Please make sure that you validate your Newick/NeXML files prior to submission. [More information](#).

Interactive plots

This journal enables you to show an Interactive Plot with your article by simply submitting a data file. [Full instructions](#).

AFTER ACCEPTANCE

Online proof correction

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, at no cost, receive a customized [Share Link](#) providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on [ScienceDirect](#). The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. 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 [Webshop](#). Corresponding authors who have published their article open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

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](#).

© Copyright 2014 Elsevier | <http://www.elsevier.com>