



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

●	<b>Description</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Audience</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Impact Factor</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Abstracting and Indexing</b>	<b>p.1</b>
●	<b>Editorial Board</b>	<b>p.2</b>
●	<b>Guide for Authors</b>	<b>p.3</b>



### DESCRIPTION

---

*Progress in Neurobiology* is an international journal that publishes groundbreaking original research, comprehensive review articles and opinion pieces written by leading researchers. The journal welcomes contributions from the broad field of neuroscience that apply neurophysiological, biochemical, pharmacological, molecular biological, anatomical, computational and behavioral analyses to problems of molecular, cellular, developmental, systems, and clinical neuroscience.

### AUDIENCE

---

Neuroscientists, neurophysiologists, neurochemists and neuropharmacologists.

### IMPACT FACTOR

---

2019: 9.371 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2020

### ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

---

Chemical Abstracts  
Current Contents - Life Sciences  
Elsevier BIOBASE  
Embase  
Current Contents  
Current Contents  
Current Contents  
PubMed/Medline  
PsycINFO  
Research Alert  
BIOSIS Citation Index  
Current Contents  
Scopus

## EDITORIAL BOARD

---

### *Editor-in-Chief*

**Sabine Kastner**, Princeton University, Princeton

### *Associate Editors*

**Jeannie Chin**, Baylor College of Medicine Department of Neuroscience, Houston, Texas, United States

**Laura Colgin**, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, United States

**Michael Halassa**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

**Aimee Kao**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California, United States

**Huan Luo**, IDG McGovern Institute for Brain Research at Peking University, Beijing, China

**Jeanne T. Paz**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California, United States

**Kimberly Raab-Graham**, Wake Forest School Of Medicine, Piedmont Triad Community Research Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States

**Mark Stokes**, Oxford Centre for Human Brain Activity OHBA Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

### *Managing Editor*

**Myrthe Ottenhoff**, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, United States

### *Editorial Advisory Board*

**Hagai Bergman**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel

**Audrey C. Brumback**, The University of Texas at Austin, Dell Medical School, Department of Neurology, Austin, Texas, United States

**Freek van Ede Ede**, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

**Brett L. Foster**, Baylor College of Medicine Department of Neuroscience, Houston, Texas, United States

**Marta Garrido**, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

**Michael Greenberg**, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

**Caleb Kemere**, Rice University Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Houston, Texas, United States

**Eve Marder**, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, United States

**Mala Murthy**, Princeton University Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton, New Jersey, United States

**Jonas Obleser**, University of Lubeck, Lubeck, Germany

**Gaia Scerif**, University of Oxford Department of Experimental Psychology, Oxford, United Kingdom

**Charlotte Stagg**, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom

**Thilo Womelsdorf**, Vanderbilt University Department of Psychology, Nashville, Tennessee, United States

## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

---

### SCOPE

*Progress in Neurobiology* is an international journal that publishes groundbreaking original research, comprehensive review articles and opinion pieces written by leading researchers. The journal welcomes contributions from the broad field of neuroscience that apply neurophysiological, biochemical, pharmacological, molecular biological, anatomical, computational and behavioral analyses to problems of molecular, cellular, developmental, systems, cognitive and clinical neuroscience.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### TYPES OF ARTICLES

For additional information on all types of articles, see ?MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION?.

**Original Research Article:** A report of highly original research which makes a significant contribution to and advances the body of knowledge in a given area. Articles should be written in sufficient detail to allow others to verify/replicate the described methods. Research articles will be initially evaluated by the Board of Editors, and only the most promising papers will undergo full open peer review.

**Review:** Review articles provide a comprehensive overview on a topic of broad interest. Importantly, these articles should have a novel synthesis and not be a mere summary of the literature. Articles should be of sufficient clarity to be suitable for assimilation by doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as by research scientists in neuroscience and allied fields. Reviews require pre-approval and inquiries should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief (please see presubmission inquiries).

**Perspective:** Perspectives reflect on the state of the art of a topic or subfield, provide novel synthesis and allow readers to gain a good idea of the subject matter in a short time. Articles should be informative and interesting to experts and non-specialists. Perspectives are more focused and less comprehensive than reviews and seek to review a topic from a particular view point. Perspectives require pre-approval and inquiries should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief (please see presubmission inquiries).

**Controversies:** These are part of a small series of articles (2-4) from different authors presenting the different viewpoints on a particular, currently heavily debated and controversial topic in neuroscience. Authors, who want to initiate a controversy topic should contact the Editor-in-Chief, or one of the Associate Editors, and discuss the topic, and possible contributors. These individuals can also become involved as guest editors for the article series, if they wish.

**Editorial:** Editorials are welcome on any topic. However, we particularly welcome contributions providing mentorship to young scientists or discussing topics relevant to both science and society. Authors who are considering submitting an editorial should contact the Editor-in-Chief with a brief outline of the proposed contribution before submission.

**Special Issues:** The editors welcome proposals for special issues, which present a collection of articles on a topic of broad interest and significance. Proposals should include a statement of the significance and timeliness of the topic, and a tentative list of contributors and brief abstracts of the articles. Organizers of special issues may serve as guest editors.

### *Pre-submission inquiries*

For reviews, Perspective and controversy papers, we are asking all authors for a pre-inquiry (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/progress-in-neurobiology/non-research-article-pre-submission-enquiries/>). Pre-inquiries should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief, who will consult with the Associate Editors and the Board to reach a decision. The following materials should be provided: (i) Topic and detailed (1-2 page) outline of the paper. (ii) Statement why the topic is timely, significant and of interest to a broad readership. We are particularly looking for work that crosses disciplinary boundaries and will be of interest to several subdisciplines from the field of neuroscience (please list the ones that will apply to your article). (iii) Statement why the article provides a novel synthesis and is not a mere summary of the literature. (iv) Authors' expertise: Please briefly summarize your contributions to the topic of your choice and list 3-5 recent publications reflecting your expertise in that area.

For original articles, presubmission inquiries are welcomed, but not required.

It should be noted that pre-approval of a review, Perspective or controversy piece will not guarantee publication. The article itself will undergo rigorous peer review, on the basis of which the editors will decide about the suitability for publication.

#### *Author inquiries*

Inquiries about the status of a manuscript, technical difficulties during the submission process etc. should be directed to PRONEU@elsevier.com.

## **PEER REVIEW PROCESS**

### **Philosophy**

The evaluation of scientific articles of any type is an important part of the scientific publishing process in order to assure the highest quality of rigor in the scientific process, appropriate scholarship and effective scientific communication. The editors of Progress in Neurobiology embrace a progressive version of the traditional peer review for evaluation of the journal's content. We will embark on an interactive, and transparent process that is focused on supporting authors to publish articles of the highest standards. We embrace open peer review and will publish the editorial decision letter, reviews (in anonymized form), and the authors' rebuttal along with the article. We also embrace collaborative review and reserve the right to discuss particularly conflicting reviews with our reviewers, as necessary, so that a clear and unified statement can be sent to authors.

### **Editorial process**

The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors aim for a transparent, rigorous and fair peer review process. They will evaluate initial submissions of original research and pre-inquiries of reviews, perspectives and controversies. Decisions on the suitability for consideration of publication are made collectively and are based on the opinions of at least two experts. The editors handle the review process for fully submitted articles and will secure at least one review, in most cases 2-3. The reviews may be discussed among the editors to reach an editorial decision. The rationale for the decision as well as clear feedback will be provided to the authors. Information for reviewers can be found on our website [<https://www.elsevier.com/reviewersguidelines>].

### **Reviewer recognition**

Our reviewers are a vital part of the journal's operation, and their engagement determines the high quality of scientific publishing that Progress in Neurobiology achieves. As a small token of our gratitude, we recognize reviewers once a year by listing them with a note of thanks in one of the volumes.

#### **MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION**

**Review articles** Articles should provide an in-depth, scholarly review of a topic, including historical background. Thus, reviews should not be limited to the work of the authors but must cover the work of several individuals who have contributed to the field under consideration. It is essential that reviews present not only a summary of the present literature, but synthesize ideas and concepts in the literature in novel and exciting ways. Articles should be written by individuals who have considerable experience and a strong record of publication in the topic being reviewed. We expect that the reviews should be of sufficient clarity to be suitable for assimilation by doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as by research scientists in the broader neuroscience community. Length of reviews will be ~10,000 words, or as per discussion with one of the editors.

**Original articles** A report of highly original research which makes a significant contribution to and advances the body of knowledge in a given area. Articles should be written in sufficient detail to allow others to verify/replicate the described methods. Instructions on the organization of an original research article and recommendations for the length and content of the different parts are given below. We welcome papers that have been posted on preprint servers.

**Perspective** Perspectives should review a particular field to identify outstanding issues and/or challenges and propose new hypotheses or directions. A Perspective may highlight emerging science, controversial ideas, or issues within the field and seek to address them by offering a novel perspective. Recommended length for a perspective: 4,000 6,000 words.

**Controversies** These are part of a small series of articles (2-4) from different authors presenting the different viewpoints on a particular, currently heavily debated and controversial topic in neuroscience. Recommended length for a controversy piece: 4,000 words.

## **ARTICLE STRUCTURE**

### **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. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. 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. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. 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. The abstract should not exceed 200 words.

**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 [http://webshop.elsevier.com/illustration-services/Illustration Services](http://webshop.elsevier.com/illustration-services/Illustration%20Services) to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

**Highlights.** Highlights are a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article. Highlights are optional 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).

**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 and 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.

**Subdivision - numbered sections (Reviews).** 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.

**Original article: Introduction** State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results. The introduction should not exceed 500-1,000 words.

**Original article: Material and methods** Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described. There is no word limit on the length of the method section, please make it as long as it needs to be.

**Original article: Theory/calculation** A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

**Original article: Results** Results should be clear and concise. There is no word limit on the length of the results section.

**Original article: Discussion** This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is possible. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature. The discussion should not exceed 1,500 - 2,000 words.

**Original article: 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.

## **APPENDICES**

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

**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).

**Footnotes.** Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article. Many word processors can build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Otherwise, please indicate the position of footnotes in the text and list the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

### **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](#).

*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).

### **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 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 gold 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 gold 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](#).

#### *Text recycling*

*Progress in Neurobiology* checks each submission for overlap with previously published work from a wide range of sources using iThenticate. In case of substantial overlap (e.g. in case of a review paper with previous reviews by the same authors), the submission will be rejected.

### **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.

#### *PUBLISHING CHOICES*

This journal offers authors a choice in publishing their research:

### **Subscription**

Articles are made available to subscribers as well as developing countries and patient groups through our access programs.

No open access publication fee payable by authors.

The Author is entitled to post the [accepted manuscript](#) in their institution's repository and make this public after an embargo period (known as green Open Access). The [published journal article](#) cannot be shared publicly, for example on ResearchGate or Academia.edu, to ensure the sustainability of peer-reviewed research in journal publications. The embargo period for this journal can be found below.

### **Gold open access**

Articles are freely available to both subscribers and the wider public with permitted reuse.

A gold open access publication fee is payable by authors or on their behalf, e.g. by their research funder or institution. Regardless of how you choose to publish your article, the journal will apply the same peer review criteria and acceptance standards.

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

### **Corrections to and Retractions of published articles**

If authors discover errors in their articles after publication, they should contact the Editor-in-Chief with a detailed description of the error. If necessary, the journal will publish a corrigendum.

Progress in Neurobiology will retract articles upon the request of the author at any time. The authors may choose to describe the reasons for a retraction in a brief note. The editors reserve the right to retract articles in cases of violations of policies, particularly related to the responsible conduct in publishing.

## **POLICIES**

### **Responsible conduct in publishing**

Please see our information pages on <https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics> Ethics in publishing and <https://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics> Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

### **Authorship and Author rights**

All authors should have made substantial contributions to all of the following: (1) the conception and design of the study, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

Each author is required to declare his or her individual contribution to the article: all authors must have materially participated in the research and/or article preparation, so roles for all authors should be described. The statement that all authors have approved the final article should be true and included in the disclosure.

As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. <https://www.elsevier.com/copyright> More information.

### **Competing interests**

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 must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. [More information](#).

## **SUPPORT FOR EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS**

### **Author and reviewer roles**

We welcome submissions from early career investigators (ECI). Please indicate in the cover letter for your article, whether you are an ECI. We will consider this in our editorial decisions to send submissions for full review.

We also welcome ECIs as reviewers and are happy to acknowledge their role for promotional or other purposes. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer or need to request a letter of acknowledgment for your review services, please send your requests to the Editor-in-Chief.

### **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.

### **Open access**

Please visit our [Open Access page](#) for more information.

## **ONLINE SUBMISSION PROCEDURE**

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.

Please submit your article via <https://www.elsevier.com/profile/api/navigate/PRONEU>.

### **Submission declaration**

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 '<https://www.elsevier.com/authors/journal-authors/policies-and-ethics> 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.

### **Review process**

Authors are requested to indicate 5 reviewers of their choice and may also exclude reviewers from the review process during the submission process. In a cover letter, authors should indicate a specific associate editor, who would be suited to handle the review process. In cases of reviews, perspectives and controversies, they also need to state whether and when they received pre-approval of their article.

Articles will be assigned to handling editors on the basis of expertise, load and availability. Handling editors will typically secure 2-3 reviews. In case of disagreement among the reviewers, consultations may be initiated to reach consensus and provide authors with clear feedback. Reviewers are required to treat manuscripts confidentially. Reviewers may choose to sign their reviews.

### **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](#).

### **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 [http://webshop.elsevier.com/languageediting/English Language Editing service](http://webshop.elsevier.com/languageediting/English-Language-Editing-service) available from Elsevier's WebShop.

### **Appeals**

If authors feel that they have been treated unfairly during the review process, they have the option to appeal the editorial decision. Appeals should be directed to the editor, who handled the submission. The editor will review the appeal together with members of the Board and/or the Editor-in-Chief.

#### *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).

### **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. This identifier will not appear in your published article.

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

#### *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 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 can be listed either first alphabetically, then chronologically, or vice versa.

Examples: 'as demonstrated (Allan, 2000a, 2000b, 1999; Allan and Jones, 1999).... Or, as demonstrated (Jones, 1999; Allan, 2000)... 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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.Sc.2010.00372>.

Reference to a journal publication with an article number:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J.A.J., Lupton, R.A., 2018. The art of writing a scientific article. *Heliyon.* 19, e00205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2018.e00205>.

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 March 2003).

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 the [List of Title Word Abbreviations](#).

## 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 file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. 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.

## Data visualization

Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions [here](#) to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

## 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.

#### *Data statement*

To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data statement](#) 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 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).

#### *Data statement*

To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission. This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process, for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the [Data Statement page](#).

#### **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, at no cost, will be provided with a PDF file of the article via e-mail (the PDF file is a watermarked version of the published article and includes a cover sheet with the journal cover image and a disclaimer outlining the terms and conditions of use). 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](#).

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | <https://www.elsevier.com>