

Biologist magazine

Instructions to Authors

The aim of *Biologist* is to publish informative and stimulating overviews of biological topics, and to provide a forum for biologists to comment on and discuss new developments and current concerns within the biosciences. The readership is composed of biologists from a wide range of different specialisms, reading outside their own specialist subjects, so it is vital that articles are as lively, accessible and reader-friendly as possible, while still remaining authoritative and scientifically correct. They should not be written in the style of a primary research paper, but at the level of a general biological review. Technical terms and abbreviations should be avoided where possible or explained on the first appearance within the paper. Good quality colour photographs and other illustrations are strongly encouraged. All articles undergo peer review before they can be accepted for publication

Scripts should ideally be submitted electronically in a Word document via email to biologist@societyofbiology.org, or on CD or floppy to *Biologist*, Society of Biology, 9 Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EF.

Submission of a paper to *Biologist* will be taken to imply that it is solely the work of the author(s) stated, has not been previously published elsewhere, and is not under consideration by another journal. If accepted for publication it must not be published elsewhere in the same form without the consent of the Editor. If previously published tables or illustrations or more than 200 words of text are to be included, then the copyright holder's permission should be obtained by the author. Copies of any such permission letters must accompany the manuscript.

All articles should have a short, imaginative title. This should not be a full description of the paper but does need to grab the reader's attention. Please start with a brief introductory or 'teaser' paragraph (about 50 words). Each article should conclude with brief biographical paragraphs on each author.

In My View articles are opinion pieces which should present an argument about a topical subject clearly and with some evidence to support it. These are typically 1500-2000 words in length

Review articles should not be in the format of a primary research paper. The text should begin with an introductory paragraph (or paragraphs). The main text should be broken up with three or four subheadings. The final page should include a note of the position(s) held by the author(s) and the full postal address(es). Articles are typically between 2000-3000 words in length. Due to the wide readership of *Biologist*, we recommend that you ask a colleague in a different specialism to read your paper prior to submission - they should be able to understand all of the content.

'Who was ?' articles are historical reviews of influential biologists taken from history. The character chosen may be famous or relatively unknown. The only stipulation is that they should have had an impact on the understanding or practice of any field of biology/research, theory, status as a science or education. The article should be no longer than 1800 words in length

Letterbox is our regular section for readers' letters. These should be no longer than 400 words in length. They should refer to articles in previous issues of *Biologist* or current issues affecting biologists.

Illustrations should be supplied as separate JPGs or TIF files of high resolution (typically several hundred KB - no less than 300dpi at a size of not less than 10cm²). Slides and prints can be submitted by post with a copy of the manuscript to the Society's London address. Where possible the author should provide one very strong image for use on the title page. Other

figures should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numbers and should be referred to in the text. Figure legends should be listed at the end of the article. Authors are encouraged to provide images for use on the cover.

Line illustrations (figures, charts, graphs and drawings) must be done to a high professional standard, as *Biologist* has no redrawing facilities, and should be large enough to withstand reduction. Please send original spreadsheets or data, etc, for graphs and charts so that we can import direct to our design software.

Tables should be provided on separate pages, one table per page. Each table must be numbered and must have a title. All tables and illustrations must be referred to in the text. SI units must be used throughout and all symbols defined; acronyms and abbreviations should be kept to a minimum and, where used, must be spelt out in full on first usage. Nomenclature should follow *Biological Nomenclature* available from the Society of Biology. Organisms at all levels should be followed by their Latin names in full on the first occurrence (eg, *Homo sapiens*) and thereafter the genus name may be shortened (*H. sapiens*). The authority is not necessary.

References must be restricted to 10 or fewer. It may help to refer to review papers and book chapters rather than primary research. In addition, authors are encouraged to recommend one or two good websites where the reader may find out more on the subject of their article. The author is responsible for the accuracy of references. References within the text should be in the following format (Smith, 1996) or (Brooks et al, 1999).

References should be listed at the end of the paper in alphabetical order. The ampersand symbol should not be used. Journal titles should be written out in full and where there are more than four authors remaining authors should be indicated with the phrase et al. For example:

Beringer J (1997) Genetic manipulation: can genes really escape; does it matter? In: *Managing biological and chemical risks*. Morgan D R (Ed). London: Institute of Biology

Brooks R, Anderson C and Stewart R (1999) Phytomining: growing a crop of a metal. *Biologist*, 46, 201-205

Smith J E (1996) *Biotechnology* (third edition). Cambridge. Cambridge University Press

Proofs. The author(s) will be sent a set of page proofs for checking, normally electronically as pdfs. These should be returned by post within four days, with corrections clearly marked in blue or red ink. Alternatively they can be sent by email, with the amendments clearly indicated.

The Editor reserves the right to edit manuscripts for clarity of expression and to conform to journal style and the limits of space available. Editorial content of *Biologist* is under copyright and permission for reproduction must be obtained by application in writing to the Editor.