# CAMBRIDGE Instructions for Contributors

# Seed Science Research

# Scope of the Journal

Seed Science Research, the official journal of the International Society for Seed Science, is an international journal that publishes original papers, as well as reviews and opinion papers, dealing primarily with the fundamentals of seed research with emphasis on the physiology, morphology, biochemistry, molecular biology and ecology of seed development, dormancy and germination. The importance of seeds to propagation, food, biofuel and biodiversity cannot be underestimated and therefore submissions on seed genetics, seed biotechnology, seed treatment and seedling establishment are especially encouraged if they are novel and 'seed driven'.

## **Publication Criteria**

The submitted manuscript presents the results of primary scientific research. Seed Science Research welcomes all submissions that will contribute to the base of scientific knowledge pertaining to seeds in the widest sense. Seed Science Research editorial criteria focus on the technical aspects of a study rather than more subjective evaluations such as 'impact' or 'interest level'. Seed Science Research wishes to publish any report of scientific research that will make a valid contribution to the scientific discipline.

Seed Science Research will consider submissions describing methods, software, databases, or other tools if they are original and not in any way related to commercial purposes.

Seed Science Research does not accept for publication studies that have already been published, in whole or in part, elsewhere in the peer-reviewed literature. All figures included in manuscripts should also be original, and should not have been published in any previous publications. However, Seed Science Research will consider manuscripts that have been published in a thesis or have been presented at conferences.

Seed Science Research will likely reject submissions that replicate or are derivative of existing work if authors do not provide adequate scientific rationale and justification.

Seed Science Research only considers submissions describing experiments that were executed with proper controls and replications. Results must be statistically robust. Methods and reagents must be described in detail for other researchers to repeat the described experiments. The data must support the conclusions. Possible implications for the described results may be discussed as long as these are hypotheses instead of conclusions.

Seed Science Research copyedits accepted manuscripts, but the language in submissions must be as clear, correct, and unambiguous as possible. Seed Science Research may reject submissions if the language is difficult to understand or includes many errors, or we may recommend authors to seek editorial help before submitting a revision.

Studies submitted to *Seed Science Research* must have been conducted to the highest ethical standards. *Seed Science Research* reserves the right to reject any submission that does not meet these standards, which in some cases are more stringent than local ethical standards.

Seed Science Research requires authors to follow standards and practice for data deposition in publicly available resources, including those for gene sequences, microarray expression and similar kinds of data. Failure to comply with community standards may result in rejection.

# **Manuscript Guidelines**

Authors are committed to follow in detail the manuscript guidelines as outlined below. If authors fail to do so, their submission will be rejected with the request to resubmit a manuscript that follows all the guidelines. Authors are particularly urged to pay attention to both format and accuracy of the references, in body text, figures, tables and list of references. Reviews, opinion papers and short communications may differ from the general guidelines for full-length papers but should always contain an abstract and keywords.

## **Authorship**

Authorship should be assumed only by those workers who have contributed materially to the work and its report, and who accept the responsibility for the accuracy of the concepts expressed. Colleagues who have otherwise assisted or collaborated should be recognized in the section for acknowledgements.

# Language

The language of the Journal is English, but acceptance of a manuscript will reflect scientific rather than grammatical content. The editors undertake to facilitate the publication of papers from those authors whose native language is not English.

Cambridge recommends that authors have their manuscripts checked by an English language native speaker before submission; this will ensure that submissions are judged at peer review exclusively on academic merit. We list a number of third-party services specialising in language editing and / or translation, and suggest that authors contact as appropriate. Use of any of these services is voluntary, and at the author's own expense. <a href="http://journals.cambridge.org/action/stream?pageld=8728&level=2&menu=Authors&pageld=3608">http://journals.cambridge.org/action/stream?pageld=8728&level=2&menu=Authors&pageld=3608</a>

#### **Submission**

Manuscript submission is exclusively via the web-based Editorial Manager, and must include a complete set of Figures. Please follow the submission link at <a href="https://www.journals.cambridge.org/ssr">www.journals.cambridge.org/ssr</a>. Further information regarding Figure formats is outlined below.

## Text

The title page should include:

- a descriptive title;
- a running head title not to exceed 50 characters;
- authors' complete names (first names and initials followed by family name);
- authors' academic addresses:
- corresponding author's full address, telephone, fax number, and email address;
- keywords: seven or less, suggested in alphabetical order; they should include the main subjects of the research and plant material;
- Declaration of all sources of financial support, including grants from non-profit organizations and/or any commercial support.

Authors' qualifications or academic positions should not be included, except in the address for correspondence.

Standard abbreviations (e.g. Fig. and Figs) and metric units must be used. Use British rather than American spellings. Use 'z' rather than 's' spellings in words with 'ize'.

#### Abstract

Each paper must commence with an accurate, informative abstract, in one paragraph, that is complete in itself and intelligible without reference to text or Figures. It should not exceed 250 words. A short title should be provided as a running head.

## **Key Words**

Not more than seven should be suggested in alphabetical order. They should include the main subjects of the research and plant material.

## **Tables**

Tables should be reduced to the simplest form, and present only essential data. Captions should be provided. Each Table should be appropriately cited within the text.

## **Figures**

Figures are encouraged where they are a real contribution to the article.

To ensure that your Figures are reproduced to the highest possible standards, Cambridge Journals recommends the following formats and resolutions. <u>NB:</u> Figures must be supplied as separate files, and not imbedded within manuscript document. Any required lettering or numbering must be inserted by the author.

Please ensure that your Figures are saved at final publication size and are in our recommended file formats. Following these guidelines will result in high quality images being reproduced in both the print and the online versions of the Journal.

Please ensure that all graphs are exclusively submitted as 2-dimensional images.

#### Line artwork

Format: tif or eps

Colour mode: black and white (also known as 1-bit)

Resolution: 1200 dpi

# Combination artwork (line/tone)

Format: tif or eps

Colour mode: grayscale (also known as 8-bit)

Resolution: 800 dpi

#### Black and white halftone artwork

Format: tif

Colour mode: grayscale (also known as 8-bit)

Resolution: 300 dpi

# **Colour halftone artwork**

Format: tif

Colour mode: CMYK colour

Resolution: 300 dpi

NB: Colour artwork may be published in print at the author's expense. Please ask for costs on submission. **Please note the journal will be electronic-only from 2014.** 

If you require any further guidance on creating suitable electronic Figures, please visit <a href="http://dx.sheridan.com/guidelines/digital\_art.html">http://dx.sheridan.com/guidelines/digital\_art.html</a>. Here you will find extensive guidelines on preparing electronic Figures and also have access to an online preflighting tool (http://dx.sheridan.com/index.html) where you can check if your Figures are suitable for reproduction.

## **Supplementary Material**

There will normally be one of the following reasons for you to be supplying supplementary material to accompany the online version of your article:

- 1. You wish to link to additional information which due to its nature does not lend itself to print media (examples- full data sets, movie or sounds files etc...)
- 2. The Editor of the Journal has requested that you extract certain information from the original article in order to allow for space constraints of the print version.
- 3. You have requested additional material to be available to accompany an article that does not normally allow such material to be included (example tables to accompany a correspondence article).

**N.B:** Please note that <u>no</u> copyediting or quality assurance measures will be undertaken on supplementary material (other than to ensure that the file is intact). The authors therefore warrant that the supplementary material that they submit is in a suitable format for publication in this manner. The material shall be published online in exactly the form that it is supplied.

### Submission

Supplementary material should be included at the submission stage.

Please follow the following instructions to supply supplementary material to accompany the online version of your article:

- 1. Each supplementary file must be supplied as a separate file. Do not supply this material as part of the file destined for publication in the print journal.
- 2. Each supplementary file must have a clear title (eq. Supplementary Figure 1).
- 3. Provide a text summary for each file of no more than 50 words. The summary should describe the contents of the file. Descriptions of individual figures or tables should be provided if these items are submitted as separate files. If a group of figures is submitted together in one file, the description should indicate how many figures are contained within the file and provide a general description of what the figures collectively show.
- 4. The file type and file size in parentheses.
- 5. Ensure that each piece of supplementary material is clearly referred to at least once in the print version of the paper at an appropriate point in the text, and is also listed at the end of the paper before the reference section.

## Format and file size

- File sizes should be as small as possible in order to ensure that users can download them quickly.
- Images should be a maximum size of 640 x 480 pixels at a resolution of 72 pixels per inch.
- Authors should limit the number of files to under ten, with a total size not normally exceeding 3 MB. Sound/movie files may be up to 10 MB per file; colour PDFs/PowerPoint may be up to 5 MB per file; all other general file types may be up to 2 MB per file but most files should be much smaller.
- We accept files in any of the following formats (if in doubt please enquire first):

  MS Word document (.doc), Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), Plain ASCII text (.txt), Rich Text Format (.rtf),
  WordPerfect document (.wpd), HTML document (.htm), MS Excel spreadsheet (.xls), GIF image (.gif), JPEG
  image (.jpg), TIFF image (.tif), MS PowerPoint slide (.ppt), QuickTime movie (.mov), Audio file (.wav), Audio
  file (.mp3), MPEG/MPG animation (.mpg).

If your file sizes exceed these limits or if you cannot submit in these formats, please seek advice from the editor handling your manuscript.

#### References

References are loosely based on the Harvard System, they are cited in the text, using the author's surname and the year of publication, e.g. Henderson (1999) in chronological order. Where a reference has two authors 'and' should be used in the text and the reference list. Where three or more authors appear 'et al.' should be used in the text, e.g. Hoekstra et al. (1999), but the surnames and initials of all the authors must be given in the list as follows:

#### Journal Article

**Dussert, S., Chabrillange, N., Engelmann, F. and Hamon, S.** (1999) Quantitative estimation of seed desiccation sensitivity using a quantal response model: application to nine species of the genus *Coffea L. Seed Science Research* 9,135-144.

## **Books**

**Cromarty, A.S., Ellis, R.H. and Roberts, E.H.** (1985) *The design of seed storage facilities for genetic conservation*. Rome, International Board of Plant Genetic Resources.

**Leopold, A.C. and Vertucci, C.W.** (1986) Physical attributes of desiccated seeds, pp. 22-34 *in* Leopold, A.C. (Ed.) *Membranes, metabolism and dry organisms*. Ithaca, NY, Cornell University Press.

**Chang, C.W.** (1975) Fluorides, pp. 57-95 in Mudd, J.B.; Kowlowski, T.T. (Eds) *Responses of plants to air pollution*. New York, Academic Press.

# **Conference Proceedings**

**Eira, M.T.S., Walters, C. and Caldas, L.S.** (1999) Critical water content for desiccation damage in coffee seeds: a role for aqueous glasses? p. 105 in Proceedings from the VI international workshop of seed biology, January 1999, Merida, Mexico.

**Sun, W.Q.** (1997) Function of the glassy state in seed storage stability, pp. 169-179 in Taylor, A.G.; Huang, X-L. (Eds) *Progress in seed research: proceedings of the second international conference on seed science and technology*. Geneva, New York, Communication Services, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

## **Required Statements**

# **Acknowledgements**

You may acknowledge individuals or organisations that provided advice, support (non-financial). Formal financial support and funding should be listed in the following section.

# Financial support

Please provide details of the sources of financial support for all authors, including grant numbers. For example, "This work was supported by the Medical research Council (grant number

XXXXXXX)". Multiple grant numbers should be separated by a comma and space, and where research was funded by more than one agency the different agencies should be separated by a semi-colon, with "and" before the final funder. Grants held by different authors should be identified as belonging to individual authors by the authors' initials. For example, "This work was supported by the Wellcome Trust (A.B., grant numbers XXXX, YYYY), (C.D., grant number ZZZZ); the Natural Environment Research Council (E.F., grant number FFFF); and the National Institutes of Health (A.B., grant number GGGG), (E.F., grant number HHHH)". Where no specific funding has been provided for research, please provide the following statement: "This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or not-for-profit sectors." The Financial Support statement should be placed in the Acknowledgements. Papers that do not include a Financial Support statement will not be reviewed.

#### Conflict of interest

Conflict of interest exists when an author has interests that might inappropriately influence his or her judgement, even if that judgement is not influenced. Authors must therefore disclose potentially conflicting interests so that others can make judgements about such effects. At the time of submission authors should disclose any financial arrangements or connections they may have that are pertinent to the submitted manuscript and that may be perceived as potentially biasing their paper. Non-financial interests that could be relevant in this context should also be disclosed. If no relevant interests exist, this should be stated. This requirement applies to all the authors of a paper and to all categories of papers including letters to the editor.

The Conflicts of Interest section should be placed after Financial Support. If there are no interests to declare, the title should be inserted followed by "None".

Papers that do not include a Conflicts of Interest section will not be reviewed.

## **Ethical standards**

Where research involves human and/or animal experimentation, the following statements should be included (as applicable): "The authors assert that all procedures contributing to this work comply with the ethical standards of the relevant national guidelines on human experimentation (please name) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2008, and has been approved by the institutional committees (please name) ." and "The authors assert that all procedures contributing to this work comply with the ethical standards of the relevant national guides on the care and use of laboratory animals (please name) and has been approved by the institutional committee (please name)."

The Ethical Standards statement should be placed after the Conflicts of Interest section before the References. If the research does not involve human and/or animal experimentation, this statement should be omitted. Papers reporting the results of human and/or animal experimentation that do not contain an Ethical Standards statement will not be reviewed. For more information on the ethical standards and procedures of Cambridge Journals, please visit Cambridge Journals Online.

## **Review Process**

All manuscripts submitted to Seed Science Research are subject to rigorous review that consists of the following steps:

- 1. Initial submissions are reviewed by internal staff to ensure adherence to Seed Science Research policies, including ethical requirements. An initial technical check will determine whether manuscript guidelines are followed.
- 2. Submissions are then assigned to the Editor-in-Chief for evaluation based on the Seed Science Research Publication Criteria. The Editor-in-Chief decides whether reviews from additional experts are needed to evaluate the manuscript. The majority of Seed Science Research submissions are evaluated by two internationally acknowledged experts in the field, but it is up to the Editor-in-Chief to determine the number of reviews required.
- 3. If the Editor-in-Chief decides that a manuscript requires peer review, it will be assigned to an Associate-Editor. The Associate-Editor will identify reviewers and take care of further handling of the manuscript. The Associate-Editor chooses between the following decisions: Accept, Minor Revision, Major Revision, Reject, Reject without Review.
- 4. If the decision is Minor Revision or Major Revision, authors have 21 days to resubmit the revised manuscript. Authors may contact the Associate-Editor or Editor-in-Chief if they require an extension.
- 5. Upon resubmission, the Editor-in-Chief may choose to send the manuscript back to the Associate-Editor for a second round of reviews, or may render a decision based on personal expertise.
- 6. The Editor-in-Chief copy-edits the manuscript and may contact the authors for minor queries.

#### Proofs

The corresponding author will receive a PDF file of page proofs by email.

# Copyright

Authors will be supplied with a copyright form which must be completed and returned to the Publisher. Papers are accepted on the understanding that the work has been submitted exclusively to the Journal and has not been previously published elsewhere unless otherwise stated.

## **Offprints**

The author of an accepted paper will receive a free PDF file via email on request; these are exclusively for personal use. Paper offprints may be purchased prior to the article going to press. An order form is available from the Publisher for this purpose and will be sent to the corresponding author with the article proofs. Completed order forms must be received before the article is printed. **Please note the journal will be electronic-only from 2014, from which point no paper offprints will be available.** 

## **Reprints**

Article reprints (following publication) are available; please email <a href="mailto:kmunns@cambridge.org">kmunns@cambridge.org</a> for minimum print run details / costs

#### **Permission**

Requests for permission to reproduce any material originally published in Seed Science Research should be sent to the Permissions Manager at Inicol@cambridge.org

#### **Announcements**

Meetings and courses may be announced in each Issue. Please email details to: <a href="mailto:kmunns@cambridge.org">kmunns@cambridge.org</a>
The Journals homepage, www.journals.cambridge.org/ssr, offers paying advertisers the opportunity to promote conferences / courses (subject to editorial approval).

For rate details please email: <a href="mailto:ad-sales@cambridge.org">ad-sales@cambridge.org</a>

Last updated: 20 May 2014