

# Systematics and Biodiversity

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## 1. AIMS AND SCOPE

*Systematics and Biodiversity* was initiated in 2002 and is devoted to whole-organism biology. It is a quarterly, international, peer-reviewed, life science journal, without page charges, which is published by Cambridge University Press for The Natural History Museum, London.

*Systematics and Biodiversity* documents the diversity of organisms in all natural phyla, through taxonomic papers, while also addressing topical issues relating to biological collections, and the principles of systematics. It particularly emphasises the importance and multi-disciplinary significance of systematics, with contributions which address the implications of other fields for systematics, or which advance our understanding of other fields through taxonomic knowledge, especially in relation to the nature, origins and conservation of biodiversity, at all taxonomic levels.

Each issue contains a main section devoted to formal peer-reviewed original research papers, and a shorter, more informal 'Perspectives' section. As well as taxonomic discovery, description, revision and recording, the research section carries studies of adaptation, anatomy, biodiversity patterns in time and space (including response to environmental and human factors, and to global change), biogeography, coevolution, conservation biology, development, evolutionary biology, functional morphology, growth and form, molecular science, phylogenetics, speciation, and systematic ecology. State-of-knowledge reviews, and papers on the theory and practice of systematics are also welcome. There are no restrictions on the geographical location of authors, their material and study areas, or on the institutional locations of their studied collections. The 'Perspectives' section covers a similar range of subjects to the main section, but gives scope for news, debate and comment, through editorials and guest-editorials, magazine-style articles, and reviews of books, CDs and websites.

For publishing and subscription details for *Systematics and Biodiversity*, please refer to the following URLs for The Natural History Museum, and Cambridge University Press, respectively:

[http://www.nhm.ac.uk/services/publishing/det\\_journals.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/services/publishing/det_journals.html)  
<http://journals.cambridge.org>

In addition to the printed issues, *Systematics and Biodiversity* is available online as part of the Cambridge Journals Online (CJO) service at the Cambridge University Press site above, with free access to tables of contents and abstracts.

The following instructions apply to all submitted material, both formal papers and informal contributions for the 'Perspectives' section, unless otherwise stated. Authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief if they have matters arising from preparation of their manuscripts, in relation to these instructions.

## 2. SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

The Editor-in-Chief will be pleased to discuss preliminary drafts or proposed content of possible manuscripts with authors.

Please submit manuscripts electronically to the Editor-in-Chief, (sysbio@nhm.ac.uk) **clearly marking messages with 'Systematics and Biodiversity'**. Covering letters or e-mail messages should give authors' names (shortened to 'Xxxxx and others.' if wished) and the title of the manuscript. If there is more than author, **please indicate clearly who is the Corresponding Author, giving contact details including e-mail address** (see also 4: 'Authors and contact details').

The Editors do not accept serialised part-studies for publication, and titles of manuscripts should stand alone, and not contain part numbers.

The Editors will take submission of a manuscript to imply that its material is original and that the author(s) is not, or will not be, submitting a recognisably similar manuscript elsewhere.

Papers that report experimental work must comply with the standards and procedures set out by British national or equivalent legislation. We will not accept papers if they are evidently based on work involving cruelty to animals, or if the work has clearly put at risk endangered populations and species. If necessary, the Editors may seek further advice. For guidelines on animal studies, please refer to *Animal Behaviour* (1996) **51**, 241-246.

**Please do not send original illustrations until your paper has been accepted.**

The electronic copy can be sent as an electronic attachment(s) via e-mail, or on a disk, suitable for a PC. We prefer text in Word and computer graphics as TIFF or high-resolution JPEG files. Please indicate clearly on your disk(s), or in your covering message with the attachment(s): (1) author(s) name(s) (shortened to 'Xxxx and others.' if wished), (2) shortened title of manuscript, (3) names of files with indication of content, and (4) computer operating system and version number used (5) software and version number used, (6) file format for illustrations (e.g. EPS, TIFF). Please supply electronically-prepared illustrations as JPEG or TIFF files, or as native format files from your graphics software, and never as postscript files.

Authors should retain a copy (including, ideally, an electronic version) of their submitted manuscripts for reference, and as a precaution in the event of loss of their submitted copies in transit.

**Original illustrations and other material will not be returned to authors unless requested.**

### 3. PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Please see [http://journals.cambridge.org/jid\\_SYS](http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_SYS) for a sample issue.

#### Text

Text should be double-spaced in 12pt font on single sides of A4 pages with margins at least 2.5 cm wide. All pages are numbered in a single sequence throughout, starting with the title page, and including contents, abstract, references, tables, captions, and indexes. Tables and captions for illustrations are typed separately at the end of the manuscript. Please indicate (e.g. in the margins of hard copy text) your required positions of illustrations and tables. If you need to refer one part of your text to another, please use the relevant manuscript page number(s). (For further details of text preparation, see 4, below.)

#### Illustrations

Illustrations may consist of line drawings or photographs and all are numbered in a single sequence and referred to consecutively in the text as 'Fig. 1', 'Fig.2', etc. Component parts of figures should be labelled (a), (b), (c), etc. Each figure must be on a separate page.

For electronically-prepared figures, please restrict typefaces to Monotype, Adobe and Bit stream font libraries, and save them in EPS or TIFF format, or as native format files within the graphics software you have used to prepare them, at 400 d.p.i. (but never as Postscript files, or JPEG or PICT formats).

*Line drawings* should not be larger than **twice** the final printed size, and should not exceed 170 x 230 mm. Lines should be bold enough to withstand reduction to about 0.25-0.35 mm.

Please keep line drawings as simple as possible, since elaborate electronically produced figures may not reduce well (e.g. three-dimensional graphs with fine lines, gradations of stippling, and unusual symbols). If drawings reproduce poorly, we will have to ask the author(s) to redraw them.

When reduced to final published size, illustrations should fit neatly into either one (83 mm) or two (172 mm) columns, preferably the former.

Axes of graphs should be carefully chosen so as to make best use of the space available. Preferred symbols for drawings are open and filled circles, boxes and triangles, and these should be used consistently. Please provide scale bars with appropriate units (e.g. 2 cm), not magnifications or scale ratios. Lettering should be kept to a minimum and should be self-explanatory, unambiguous and of sufficiently high quality and size to be clearly visible after reduction to final published size. Lettering of all figures within the manuscript should be of uniform style in a sans serif typeface like Helvetica, using lower-case lettering.

Photographs should be the same size as their final intended appearance when published and should fit into either one (83 mm) or two (172 mm) columns. For microscopical preparations, please provide scale bars with appropriate units (e.g. 50  $\mu\text{m}$ ), not magnifications.

*Cover images.* We invite authors of accepted contributions to provide relevant, high quality, interesting images (with caption information), including those in colour, which might be suitable for the cover of the issue in which their paper will appear. (Each issue has a different cover image.)

*Colour.* We publish colour illustrations where this provides essential information not otherwise readily conveyed in any other way. Please explain your case for using colour to the Editors. Apart from cover images (above), authors will generally be charged for use of colour but some discretion may be shown.

## **Tables**

Tables should be prepared to fit the page size (230 x 170 mm) without undue reduction. We cannot accept oversized tables. All tables are numbered in a single sequence and referred to consecutively in the text as 'Table 1', 'Table 2', etc., and any subsections as '(a)', '(b)', etc. Each figure must be on a separate page. Footnotes in tables are indicated by superscript <sup>a, b, etc.</sup>

## **Captions to illustrations**

Please provide self-explanatory captions to illustrations, double-spaced, on a separate page(s). These should not contain details of results.

## **Supplementary data**

The Editors may suggest that supplementary data and other information be excluded from the printed paper, but made available with the web-based version.

# **4. PREPARATION OF TEXT**

## **Titles**

Titles should be concise and include the name of the family or other higher taxon, where appropriate. Authors should also suggest a running title (maximum 10 words). Authorities for taxonomic names are not necessary unless essential for clarification. (See also below: 'Formal and vernacular names of organisms')

## **Authors and contact details**

Please give all authors' names in their preferred combination of full name(s) and initial(s), and consistent in style with those they have used in other scientific publications. Full addresses should be given, including e-mail addresses if wished. The Corresponding Author (if applicable) should be asterisked, and a footnote provided, worded 'Corresponding Author'.

## **Dates**

The Corresponding Author and Editors should note dates of submission and acceptance of manuscripts. These will be recorded on the title page of all published contributions, together with the date of publication for each issue.

## **Abstracts**

All formal papers are accompanied by abstracts, preferably less than 300 words in length. Abstracts should provide a proper summary of the paper's contents, and should be intelligible without reference to the main text. Abstracts for informal contributions are optional, subject to Editors' suggestion.

## **Key Words**

All formal papers are accompanied by a set of five to ten key words or short phrases, for all formal papers. This is optional for informal contributions, subject to Editors' suggestion.

## **Contents and Indexes**

Please prepare a list of contents and, for papers containing formal taxonomy, a systematic index. Contents will not be necessary for very short contributions and those with very few headings. Indexes should differentiate new taxa (in bold Roman), accepted taxa (Roman), and junior synonyms (Italics). Actual page numbers are added at proof stage. If authors are uncertain about whether to provide Contents and Indexes, Editors will advise.

## **Heading hierarchy**

Up to three levels of heading can be used, and a fourth heading may be added for formal taxonomic descriptions. Headings should not be numbered.

### **Conventional sequence of text**

As far as possible, formal papers should follow the usual sequence of: title, author(s)' details, abstract, key words, contents, introductory and background, matter, study area details, material examined, methods, observations / results, discussion, conclusions, acknowledgements, references, tables, figure captions, figures. Formal taxonomic descriptions usually follow all other kinds of text. This sequence however will not necessarily suit all papers, in which case, authors should use a rational scheme that suits their particular purpose. Please ensure however that factual and observational matter is clearly distinguished from interpretation.

### **Style**

With a wide range of subject matter and broad readership in *Systematics and Biodiversity*, contributions should be written in a style that can be understood by the general reader, especially in the introductory matter and conclusions. It is easier to read and understand text written in the active rather than passive voice, and also, where appropriate, in the first or third person (e.g. 'I/We/[named person] observed . . .', rather than, 'It was observed that . . .').

British conventions of spelling and grammar should be followed, except in quotations of non-British text, titles of referenced works, etc.

Intemperate language, and content that is likely to give offence, will not be accepted. Pejorative, contentious or non-equalitarian terms should be avoided, both for people and place names (see also below: 'Place names').

### **Footnotes**

Please make minimal use of footnotes in the text, but they can be used to add information below the body of a table (see also 3. 'Tables').

### **Introductory material**

In view of the aims and scope of *Systematics and Biodiversity*, we expect authors to convey the context and perceived importance of their work (e.g. new discoveries, economic relevance, previously unresolved rival hypotheses, topicality, previously unknown relationships, conservation urgency, information from new locations, medical importance, much-needed synthesis or revision of existing knowledge). This can also include historical background.

### **Place names**

"Locating a place is often easier than spelling its name." (Foreword in *The Times Atlas of the World*). In general, authors should use the latest comprehensive edition of *The Times Atlas of the World* for the versions and spellings of place names, or for Britain they should use the maps and gazetteers of the Ordnance Survey. The conventions and approach adopted by *The Times Atlas* are explained in its Foreword. Generally, the local version of a place name (transliterated into Roman letters where necessary) precedes an anglicised rendering, where one exists and where space allows. However, even within a single region or country, there may be current alternatives for a single place name, for reasons of history, politics, and multi-lingual factors. Some may be contentious or unresolved officially. Other names may have been changed officially through time.

For all these reasons, locality data in a paper, including information on specimen labels, may be based on names which are not in current use, or which are not preferred by the current author(s). Authors should therefore use dual names, at least for when they first use a place name in the text, (e.g. 'Firenze (Florence)' or 'Florence (Firenze)'), and thereafter adopt a consistent preference for using one or both, throughout the remaining text. Earlier out-of-date names should be given in square brackets (e.g. St.Petersburg [Leningrad]) after the current name. In papers where there are many place names, a list of equivalents can be provided, with explanations and relevant citations of sources as necessary.

For the most precise location of study and collecting sites, authors should supplement place names with coordinates of latitude and longitude, or use references to a publicly available cartographic grid system.

(Please also refer to 'Language', above.)

### **Morphological terms**

A list of morphological and anatomical terms used throughout the text and illustrations, together with any abbreviations used for them, should precede the text in which they are first used.

### **Symbols, units, and numerical presentation**

Whole numbers, one to nine, are spelt in full, except where precise measurements are being reported (e.g. in tables, diagrams and text dealing with results, and in bibliographic citations). Avoid numerals at the beginning of sentences. From 10 onwards, numerals are used.

Equations should be centred on the page with the equation number in parentheses, aligned to the right.

The metric system must be used, and all scientific units should be in SI format, as far as possible. Abbreviations for units usually do not need a full stop (e.g. '6 mm'). Use scientific notation for large values, e.g. '4.3 x 10<sup>6</sup>'.

Format for radiocarbon dates: '3000 yr BP C14' or '3000 yr BP <sup>14</sup>C', where 'BP' means 'before present'. Formats for geological/evolutionary time are: '20.5 Ma' for absolute age (i.e. before present) and '5 Myr' for absolute time duration. Similarly, if required, '100 ka', and '50 kyr', respectively.

For further details see Baron, D.N, (1988). *Units, symbols and abbreviations*. Fifth Edition. Royal Society of Medicine Series, London.

### **Names of organisms**

Please use formal names for organisms wherever possible, to ensure scientific precision. These may be anglicised, except in where conventions of formal taxonomic procedure apply. Anglicised formal names do not take initial capitals. If a name of an organism is used in the title and/or abstract an indication of its taxonomic position must be given.

### **Use of italics**

Authors should use italics for formal generic and species names (but see under 'Contents and Indexes' above), Latin names of anatomical parts, phrases borrowed from other languages (e.g. *in situ*). They should be retained when used in direct quotations from another author, and where italics have been used in publication titles. (See also 5.)

### **Use of square brackets**

In addition to any requirements of formal taxonomic procedure, square brackets should be used to indicate an older version of a name, word or phrase, and for an author(s) own interjected comments or inferences within quotations from another source, including specimen documentation.

### **Use of quotation marks**

Double quotation marks should be used for direct quotations from letters, specimen labels, other publications, but in all other instances, single quotation marks should be used.

### **Abbreviations and contractions**

No full point is needed for contractions (e.g. Dr, Mr, St). Common abbreviations should be in Roman except *c* (for 'circa', or 'approximately'. (See also 'Symbols etc.' above, and 5.) Follow standard procedure for use of Botanical abbreviations.

## 5. PREPARATION OF REFERENCES

Reference to other publications within the text are in short form (see below), and full details of these are given in a reference list (see below) which should be at the end of the text proper. If an extended bibliography is required to additional works which are not actually referred to in the text, this should be headed separately. Accuracy of references is the responsibility of the author(s).

References cited in the reference list as in 'in press' are acceptable, but not 'in preparation' or 'submitted'. The latter can be used within the text, or this and other unpublished information can be indicated within the text as 'personal communication' with further details as required.

Details of formatting and other check points are:

All works cited in the text (including tables and captions) should be given in the reference list and *vice versa*.

The spellings of cited authors' names should be consistent throughout the manuscript.

The dates, and letter suffixes (if applicable - see item 4. below) of cited works should be consistent throughout the manuscript.

Order of citation of works in the reference list is firstly alphabetical by first author, then for multi-author works with the same first author, by subsequent authors. Works with an identical author, or identical multi-author list, are arranged chronologically by publication date. The dates of works with an identical author, or identical multi-author list, and the same publication date, are suffixed 'a', 'b', 'c', as necessary, and arranged in the reference list alphabetically in suffix order. The same suffixes used in the reference list should be used in the text citations.

Formatting for the reference list in formal papers does not use abbreviations:

BACCHUS, M., BRENDALL, M., MELLISH, C.J.T. AND ROSEN, B.R. 1992. The rapid reclamation, removal, conservation, and recycling of redundant furniture and building materials during refurbishment of museum buildings. In: CLAUDEN, A. AND OLDFIELD, R.A., Eds., *Fifth Symposium on Museum Waste Management. Special Publications of the Royal South Kensington Recycling Society* 77, 289-313.

GEORGE, C. AND WENGER, A. 2002. *Highbury: home of football*. Third Edition. Red and White Press, Islington.

MONKS, N. AND OWEN, E.F. 1998. *Cuvierrhynchia orbei* (Brachiopoda): even more new records from the English Chalk. In: LONG, S.L., Ed., *Brachiopods - the forgotten phylum?* Sunny Sussex Publishers, Eastbourne, pp. 126-251.

PALUMBO, T. 1990. When architecture becomes civilisation: the Italian railway station. (Part 2). *Binari* 11, 8-13.

Formatting for references of articles and reviews for the 'Perspectives' section can use the shorter format versions of cited works:

BACCHUS, M., *et al.* 1992. *Special Publications of the Royal South Kensington Recycling Society* 77, 289-313.

GEORGE, C. AND WENGER, A. 2002. *Highbury: home of football*. Third Edition. Red and White Press, Islington.

MONKS, N. AND OWEN, E.F. 1998. In: *Brachiopods - the forgotten phylum?* LONG, S.L., Ed., Sunny

Sussex Publishers, Eastbourne, pp. 126-251.

PALUMBO, T. 1990. *Binari* **11**, 8-13.

Formatting for citations within the text (as required by the context):

Bacchus *et al.* (1992)

(Bacchus *et al.*, 1992)

(Bacchus *et al.*, 1992, p. 293)

(George and Wenger, 2002)

Both authors' names are given for two-author papers. For more than two authors, use '*et al.*' or 'and others'. If general, use as many authors' names, with date suffixes as required, to make the within-text citation unique within the paper as a whole.

Formatting sets of citations within a single group of citations is chronological, e.g.:

(Palumbo, 1990; Bacchus *et al.*, 1992; Monks and Owen, 1998; George and Wenger, 2002)

Initials of namesake authors should be included where this avoids ambiguity within a single paper.

## 6. EDITING AND REFEREEING

Following submission of a manuscript, one particular Editor will take responsibility for communication with referees. Occasionally, we will invite a member of the Editorial Board to assist with this process.

All formal scientific papers will be refereed by at least two specialists in the same or closely-related field as the paper. A third referee may be used in the event of strongly conflicting referees' reports.

We invite authors to suggest referees, but the Editors reserve the right to make their own choice and will generally insist on this for at least one referee.

We assume anonymity of referees unless it is acceptable and helpful to all parties concerned to reveal a referee's name.

We ask referees to recommend (a) publication, with major or minor revisions as applicable, or (b) rejection. The Editor-in-Chief will inform authors of referees' suggestions for revisions and improvement to manuscripts. The Editors will make the final decision on acceptance / rejection, basing this on the referees' recommendations and the author(s)' response to recommended revisions. The Editor-in-Chief, or an Associate Editor on the Editor-in-Chief's behalf, will communicate the final decision to the Corresponding Author.

Subject to the Editors' discretion, material for the 'Perspectives' section will be formally refereed. We recommend however that authors have their articles checked by a colleague in the same field before they submit it, or authors may suggest names of possible readers to the Editors.

## 7. PROOFS

Proofs will be sent to the author as a PDF via Email. Corrections should be made on the marked proof or minimal corrections can be communicated by Email to: [sysbio@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:sysbio@nhm.ac.uk) and returned to the Editor-in-Chief. The Editor will return proofs to the publisher. For further information, please

refer to the sheet accompanying your proofs. Please ensure that you check your proofs carefully. We do not normally send revised proofs to author(s) and changes cannot be made after publication.

## **8. COPYRIGHT**

We request authors to complete and hand-sign the copyright form that will accompany our formal Letter of Acceptance, and return it to Cambridge University Press, as instructed. (If you receive the form electronically, please reply using a printed-out version.) We ask you to assign copyright to The Natural History Museum. Any third party must then obtain permission from the Museum to reproduce the material. This ensures that reproduction requests are handled efficiently and consistently.

In assigning copyright, authors may use their own material in their own subsequent publications, provided that *Systematics and Biodiversity* is acknowledged as the original place of publication, and the instructions for re-use, as indicated on the copyright form, are followed.

## **9. OFFPRINTS**

On publication of all contributions, twenty-five free offprints of each contribution will be forwarded to the Corresponding Author. Further offprints may be ordered at extra cost at proof stage. Please return offprint order forms to Cambridge University Press as instructed.

## **10. ON-LINE PUBLICATION**

Authors will have the opportunity to approve on-line publication of their paper in advance of the printed version of the issue in which the paper will appear. Papers which appear in this way are considered as published and are fully citable by use of the unique 'doi' which appears on the article in both the online and print versions of the journal.

In addition, the Editor encourages authors to use the journal's supplementary material service. Supporting tables, appendices and images are made available on-line alongside the main article with a designated url which is also published in the print journal. This enhances the readability of the article, as well as allowing authors to deposit additional material which takes advantage of the online format, such as audio and movie files or colour representations of black and white figures used in the print version.