

# Instructions for Authors

## Aims and scope

*SCIENCE CHINA Life Sciences* (*Sci China Life Sci*) is a journal supervised by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and National Natural Science Foundation of China, and in collaboration with Chinese Biological Investigators Society. It is published monthly in English by Science China Press and Springer. The journal is indexed/abstracted in SCI, PubMed, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, CA, etc.

*Sci China Life Sci* publishes authoritative reviews, high-quality original research papers, CUSBEA article series, insight, letter to the editor, research highlight, and news and views. It covers a wide range of areas in life sciences including biology, medicine, and agriculture and ecology.

*Review* articles insightfully summarize the progress of a particular topic.

*Research Paper* reports original observations and discoveries of general interest in life sciences.

*CUSBEA Article Series* publishes papers from China-US Biochemistry Examination and Application fellows.

*Insight* reviews significant research achievements in life sciences (about 1500 words with one figure or table and no more than ten references).

*Letter to the Editor* reports novel findings that have an immediate major impact on current life sciences research (about 1000 words with one figure or table and no more than five references).

*Research Highlight* discusses one or more recently published research articles that are interesting enough to warrant further comment (about 1000 words with one figure or table and no more than five references).

*News and Views* covers original viewpoints about major scientific discoveries, research policies and other scientific events (about 1000 words with one figure or table and no more than five references).

All papers appearing in this journal are strictly peer-reviewed before publication. Contributions are invited from researchers all over the world.

## Submission of manuscripts

All submitted manuscripts are not assumed to be published previously or concurrently submitted for publication elsewhere. Manuscripts should be prepared for submission in docx or doc format (Word), single-columned, A4 size, 12 pt, single spaced, with tables inserted in the text and figures provided in the original editable form.

Visit the website [life.scichina.com](http://life.scichina.com), click the button "Submission & Review", and use ScholarOne Manuscript System. For a new user, please create an account and submit a manuscript following the guidance. An informative cover letter briefly describing the major discoveries of your work is required. The authors should recommend 3–5 qualified reviewers and may request the exclusion of particular reviewers.

## Review policy

All the submitted manuscripts will be reviewed by expert referees selected by the editorial board. The final decision on a manuscript will be made by the editorial board based on the referees' comments. The entire review process usually takes 40 days, and the editorial office will inform the author of the decision as soon as the process is completed.

## Authorship

Authorship should be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work. Submission of a manuscript is taken to imply that all the named authors are aware that they are listed as co-authors, and they have seen and agreed to the submitted version. The corresponding author is the one who should take the major responsibility to ensure that the submitted manuscripts are properly prepared in all aspects.

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The journal encourages authors, where possible and applicable, to deposit data that support the findings of their research in a public repository. Authors and editors who do not have a preferred repository should consult Springer Nature's list of repositories and research data policy.

### List of Repositories

(<http://www.springernature.com/gp/group/data-policy/repositories>)

### Research Data Policy

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General repositories-for all types of research data-such as Figshare and Dryad may also be used. Datasets that are assigned digital object identifiers (DOIs) by a data repository may be cited in the reference list. Data citations should include the minimum information recommended by DataCite: authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier.

### DataCite (<https://www.datacite.org/>)

Springer Nature provides a research data policy support service for authors and editors, which can be contacted at [researchdata@springernature.com](mailto:researchdata@springernature.com). This service provides advice on research data policy compliance and on finding research data repositories. It is independent of journal, book and conference proceedings editorial offices and does not advise on specific manuscripts.

### Helpdesk

(<http://www.springernature.com/gp/group/data-policy/helpdesk>)

## Ethical responsibilities of authors

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor, and follow the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct.

## Preparation for publication

After typesetting, the page proof is usually sent as an email attachment to the corresponding author. The proof, together with any possible minor corrections, must be returned to the managing editor within 48 hours. Failure to do this might result in a delay in the final publication of the paper.

## Page charges and offprints

Page charges are 300 RMB (US\$50) for each page in black and white and 800–2000 RMB (US\$130–350) for each color page, varying with the total number of color pages (visit [life.scichina.com](http://life.scichina.com) for details). An invoice for the charge will be sent to the corresponding author by the Editorial Office. Authors will be presented one sample copy. If offprints and more sample copies are required, please contact the managing editor and pay the extra fee.

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## Manuscript preparation

*Review* articles are usually submitted by invitation only. Those who are not invited but intend to submit a review manuscript should contact the Executive Vice Editor-in-Chief of the journal (Professor CHANG ZengYi at: [changzy@pku.edu.cn](mailto:changzy@pku.edu.cn)). Authors writing review manuscripts are respectfully requested to limit article length to approximately 10 printed pages, including a few illustrative figures and tables as relevant.

Manuscripts of full research articles should be well organized, with concise language and avoiding redundant tables and figures. Authors are advised to use standard international nomenclature, express all measurements in the International System of Units.

For a typical *Research Paper*, manuscripts should be divided into the following sections: Title page; Abstract; Introduction; Results; Discussion; Materials and methods; Compliance and ethics; Acknowledgements; References; Figure legends; Figures; Tables.

### Title Page

The title should be concise and informative, and usually limited to no more than 20 words.

Please provide the names of the authors, their affiliations and addresses (postcode included), e-mail addresses, and telephone number of the corresponding author.

### Abstract

It should be a single paragraph, succinctly and clearly describing the major findings reported in the manuscript, and comprehensible to readers who did not read the paper. Abbreviations and specialized terms should be avoided. Reference citations within the abstract are not permitted.

A list of 3–8 keywords reflecting the theme of the manuscript should be provided.

### Introduction

It should briefly introduce the relevant background of the research conducted (not a comprehensive review of the specific field), purpose of the study reported, and provide a brief summary of the major findings.

Abbreviations should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter. Please do not use subheadings in the introduction.

### Results

Major observations and conclusions of the reported study should be clearly and logically described here. Informative subheadings should be used in this section. Please use different font sizes to indicate headings and subheadings without numbering.

### Discussion

The significance of the reported discoveries in the paper should be discussed with historical and future perspectives. Hypotheses or theories supported by solid evidences might be proposed here. This section may contain subheadings and can in some cases be combined with the Results section.

### Materials and methods

This section should only contain sufficient detail so that all experimental procedures can be repeated by others, in conjunction with cited references. Only truly new procedures should be described in detail here.

### Compliance and ethics

All authors are required to declare any Conflict of Interest in detail, i.e., each author individually by name must declare any potential CoI, and declare that s/he does not have any CoI.

For studies involving human subjects and animals, authors must also state that they conformed with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (as revised in 2008) concerning Human and Animal Rights, and that they followed out policy concerning Informed Consent as shown on Springer.com.

### Acknowledgements

This is for the authors to express their gratitude to those who have helped during their research. Information concerning funding organizations (including the grant numbers) for the reported research is also usually provided here. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

### References

The references section should include all printed/online journal articles, books and book chapters, published conference proceedings, and meeting abstracts. Please cite unpublished data (including submitted manuscripts), personal communications, and databases in text only. Arrange the citations in alphabetical order. All authors' names should be quoted. Please refer to the following examples:

- Article in a periodical  
Hu, C.H., Hu, W.P., Zhang, F.B., Hu, Z.X., Li, X.H., and Chen, Y.G. (2006). Sediment resuspension in Lake Taihu, China. *Chin Sci Bull* 51, 731–737.
- Article in a book  
Polito, V.S. (1983). Calmodulin and calmodulin inhibitors: Effect on pollen germination and tube growth. In *Pollen: Biology and Implication for Plant Breeding*, D.L. Mulvshy, and E. Ottaviano, ed. (New York:

Elsevier), pp. 53–60.

- An entire book  
Norman, I.J., and Redfern, S.J. (1996). *Mental Health Care for Elderly People* (New York: Churchill Livingstone).
- Article in conference proceedings  
Minor, H.E. (2000). Spillways for high velocities. In *Proceedings of International Workshop on Hydraulics of Stepped Spillways*, V.E. Zurich, H.E. Minor, and W.H. Hager, ed. (Rotterdam, the Netherlands), pp. 3–10.
- Dissertation  
Tang, H.J. (2002). Ecological studies on phytoplankton of the shallow, eutrophic Lake Donghu. Dissertation for Doctoral Degree. (Wuhan: Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences).
- Technical report  
Phillips, N.A. (1979). The Nested Grid Model. NOAA Technical Report NWS22.
- Patent  
Zhang, W.P. (2003). Experiment Apparatus of Diffraction Imaging. China Patent, 02290557.X.
- User manual  
Wang, D.L., Zhu, J., and Li, Z.K. (1999). User Manual for QTKMapper Version 1.6

In the text, references should be written as in the following examples: (Zhang, 2003) or (Wang et al., 1999; Hu et al., 2006) or (Norman and Redfern, 1996) or (Hu et al., 2009a, b).

### Figure legends

All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure must be defined, unless they are common abbreviations or have already been defined in the text. Experimental details should, where possible, be given in the Materials and methods section, and not repeated in the figure legends. Provide these separately from figures. For figures with multiple panels, the first sentence of the legend should be a brief overview of the entire figure.

### Figures

#### Figure submission

- Supply all figures electronically.
- For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; MS Office files are also acceptable.

#### Color art

- Color art is free of charge for online publication.
- If the figures will be printed in black and white, do not refer to color in the captions.

#### Figure lettering

- To add lettering, it is best to use Arial (sans serif fonts).
- Keep lettering consistently sized throughout your final-sized artwork, usually about 7 pt.

#### Figure numbering

- All figures are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Figures should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- Figure parts should be denoted by uppercase letters (A, B, C...).
- Supplementary figures in online supporting information (Electronic Supplementary Material) should be numbered separately (Figure S1, S2, S3...) and cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

#### Figure captions

- Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. Include the captions in the text file of the manuscript, not in the figure file.
- Identify all elements found in the figure in the figure caption; and use boxes, circles, etc., as coordinate points in graphs.
- Identify previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference citation at the end of the figure caption.

### Tables

- All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- For each table, please supply a table caption (title) explaining the components of the table.
- Identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table caption.
- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.

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