**Oecologia Author Instructions – Manuscript Guidelines**

Instructions for authors at Springer.com do not include all formatting expectations for Oecologia submissions. Oecologia’s Editors-in-Chief have combined all of Springer’s instructions along with their additional detailed expectations into two user-friendly files; “**Manuscript Guidelines**” and “**Artwork Instructions**”. Please prepare submissions to Oecologia according to the instructions in these two files. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines may be returned to authors or their review may be delayed.

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**Aims and scope**

*Oecologia* publishes innovative ecological research of general interest to a broad international audience. We publish several types of manuscripts in many areas of ecology:

**Categories:**
- Concepts, Reviews and Synthesis
- Views and Comments
- Methods
- Physiological ecology – Original research
- Behavioral ecology – Original research
- Population ecology – Original research
- Plant-animal interactions – Original research
- Community ecology – Original research
- Ecosystem ecology – Original research
- Global change ecology – Original research
- Conservation ecology – Original research
- Special Topic

In general, studies that are purely descriptive, mathematical, documentary, and/or natural history will not be considered.

In the *Concepts, Reviews and Syntheses* section, we seek papers on emerging issues in ecology, especially those that cross multiple boundaries in ecology, provide synthesis of important bodies of work or delve into new combinations of theory and observations with the potential to create new paradigms or challenge existing paradigms. These papers are usually invited, but we welcome unsolicited contributions. In the *Views and Comments* section we seek short papers with the intent to provide contrary and/or broader perspectives on papers recently published in Oecologia. Alternatively, pairs of short papers which present opposing views on a
topic of high interest in the ecological research community will be published in this section, with the intent to stimulate open debate. In both cases, the papers must be relatively short (up to 5 printed pages in the case of opposing view pairs of papers, or up to 3 printed pages in the case of comments on previously-published work), and to contain not only an opinion or criticism on methods or statistics, but also relevant data or original analyses that support the opposing view or comment. Manuscripts or letters intended for the Views and Comments section will be reviewed by one of the Editors-in-Chief and a Handling Editor in the field appropriate to the submission. Special Topics are a collection of integrated papers on a critical topic of broad interest. Proposals for Special Topics should be submitted to one of the Editors-in-Chief. Methods are papers that outline new approaches that address standing questions in the discipline. Original Research papers are published by subject; they provide the core of our journal and represent original investigations that offer new insights into ecological systems.

Legal and ethical requirements

Ethical responsibilities of authors

This journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the journal will follow the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct.

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation can be achieved by following the rules of good scientific practice, which includes:

- The manuscript has not been submitted to more than one journal for simultaneous consideration.
- The manuscript has not been published previously (partly or in full), unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work (please provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the hint of text-recycling (“self-plagiarism”)).
- A single study is not split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various journals or to one journal over time (e.g. “salami-publishing”).
- No data have been fabricated or manipulated (including images) to support your conclusions
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- Consent to submit has been received from all co-authors and responsible authorities at the institute/organization where the work has been carried out before the work is submitted.
- Authors whose names appear on the submission have contributed sufficiently to the scientific work and therefore share collective responsibility and accountability for the results.

In addition:

- Changes of authorship or in the order of authors are not accepted after acceptance of a manuscript.
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• If the article is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.

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• The author’s institution may be informed.

Disclosure of potential conflict of interests

Authors must disclose all relationships or interests that could influence or bias the work. Although an author may not feel there are conflicts, disclosure of relationships and interests affords a more transparent process, leading to an accurate and objective assessment of the work. Awareness of real or perceived conflicts of interests is a perspective to which the readers are entitled and is not meant to imply that a financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation for consultancy work is inappropriate. Examples of potential conflicts of interests that are directly or indirectly related to the research may include but are not limited to the following:

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• Position on advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships

• Multiple affiliations

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• Holdings of spouse and/or children that may have financial interest in the work

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See below examples of disclosures:

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Please follow the format of the following examples:

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Manuscript preparation

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- Manuscripts must be written in English and double-spaced throughout (including references) with at least 2.5 cm (1 inch) margins. Please write in the active voice using the past tense only for methods and results sections.

- Page numbers are optional but should not be included on tables and figures. Pages in Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM) should be numbered separately.

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- Footnotes should not be used, except on the title page or in Tables.

- For indents, use tab stops or other commands, not the space bar.

**Manuscript contents (in order)**

- **Title page** The title should be concise and informative and less than 200 characters. Short titles (< 15 words) are best and are more often cited. The concept, problem or hypothesis to be tested should be clear from the title. The use of full taxonomic names in the title is discouraged; no taxonomic authorities should appear in titles. On the title page, include name(s) of author(s), the affiliation(s) of the author(s), and the e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers of the corresponding author. A declaration of authorship is required to be included as a footnote on the title page.

- **Abstract** The abstract should not exceed 250 words in length. Include key quantitative data in the results. Do not repeat the title in the first sentence and avoid phrases such as “is discussed” and “needs further research”. Write for a general audience; avoid jargon, undefined abbreviations and literature references.

- **Key words** Five key words should be supplied, indicating the scope of the paper and not repeating terms already used in the title. Each keyword should not contain more than two compound words, preferably only one.

- **Introduction**

- **Materials and methods** Some submissions, such as reviews, may depart from the typical format of Methods-Results-Discussion.

- **Results** Avoid “Results are shown in Figure 3”. Instead, say for example, “Biodiversity declined with the addition of nitrogen (Fig. 3).” Be specific: e.g., “positively correlated” instead of “correlated”. Refer to magnitudes of effects (e.g. give effect sizes and confidence intervals) rather than just $P$-values.
• **Discussion**

• **Acknowledgements** Please keep this section as short as possible. Acknowledgements of people, grants, funds, etc. should be placed in a separate section before the reference list. The names of funding organizations should be written in full. Compliance with ethical standards may be stated in the cover letter rather than the acknowledgements section.

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