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Reproducibility of results The number of times a complete experiment has been carried out should be given together with the number of samples analysed on each occasion. This should be indicated either in the Methods or in the Tables or Figures. The range of values should be indicated by ± in a table, or by an error-bar in a figure.

Accuracy All values should be quoted within the experimental accuracy of the protocol being used taking into account the type of analysis and instrumentation being used. Rarely can values given to four or more significant figures be justified. Please avoid the use of non-significant zeros in numerical values (e.g. write 10 g glucose NOT 10.0 g glucose, or even 10.00 g glucose, etc.).

Please avoid using ‘reduce’ when you mean ‘decrease’ or ‘lower’ particularly in the context where there may be (bio)chemical reductions.

Units: please always leave a space between the number and the unit; e.g. 100 mM not 100mM.

Do not use a fold-decrease (e.g. a 5-fold decrease) as the meaning of this is never clear. Use % decrease instead.

Avoid ‘ppm’ and, where possible, % but give as mg/l (mg l⁻¹) or g/l (g l⁻¹) etc. SI units and permitted alternatives are to be used. Use correct abbreviations for standard units: h not hr, g not gr etc. If you use % for a concentration, always state if this is v/v, w/v, v/w or w/w. Abbreviations are never made plural. Do not use normalities (N) for concentrations of acids or bases; molarities (M) should be given instead. Please note that the journal prefers the use of M (and mM etc.) rather than mol l⁻¹ or mmol l⁻¹.

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Concentrations are given as 10 g ethanol/l not 10 g/l ethanol. Mixtures of materials are given as Tris/HCl, chloroform/methanol (2:1, v/v) or methanol/water/acetic acid (60:35:5, by vol.).

For presentation of cell growth, please give as dry weight values for microbes, plant and animal cell cultures. Values as wet weights are not acceptable. Optical densities (not absorbancies) are given as OD values (e.g. OD₆₀₀) and must
be converted to the corresponding cell dry wt values. Please do not say “exponential (or logarithmic) growth” unless you have clear data to support that such rates were achieved. Arithmetic growth rates are usually attained in most cell growth systems in spite of many statements to the contrary.

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June 2018