Environmental Chemistry Letters

1. EDITORIAL PROCEDURE - REVIEW ARTICLES
For review articles please follow the general instructions for original articles below, with the following exceptions:
- The page number is not limited;
- The illustration number is not limited. Authors are invited to provide high quality tables and figures such as graphs, schemes, drawings and colour photos. Text and illustrations should be well balanced, e.g. one illustration per article section.
- The abstract, with a maximum of 300 words, should contain two parts: a first part giving general/global issues, then specific/scientific issues (5-6 sentences) followed by a second part which should start with: “Here we review… The major points are the following: 1)...2)...”. Please note that this list with major points should list the major advances demonstrated in the review by literature analysis. The reader should be able to clearly understand the added value of those advances.

2. EDITORIAL PROCEDURE - ORIGINAL ARTICLES
Preselection at the submission stage
Manuscripts that do not strictly follow the instructions below will be declined at the submission stage by the Editors-in-Chief. The actual rejection rate is 83%. Authors who are not fluent in English should seek help from proofreading services prior submission, e.g. www.edanzediting.com. Authors who do not fully master scientific writing and communication should read the book ‘Scientific Writing for Impact Factor Journals’ by Eric Lichtfouse, Chief Editor (Nova Publishers, 2013).

Novelty
The novelty, or difference, of the major finding versus current knowledge should clearly be explained in:
- the cover letter to the Editors-in-Chief;
- the abstract;
- the end of the Results and Discussion section;
- the Conclusion section.
To explain the novelty, the author should first state what is already known (current knowledge), then state what the added value of the main finding is. Only articles that show an outstanding added value will be sent for in-depth evaluation.

English
All manuscripts should be written in high-quality English. Non-English native authors should seek appropriate help from English-writing professionals before submission.

Page number
The total length of a manuscript including figures, tables and references should not exceed 3000 words (10 pages). The number of tables plus figures is limited to 4.

Sections
The text should start with: article title; name of authors with an asterisk “*” highlighting the corresponding author; postal addresses; e-mail address of the corresponding author; 6 keywords. The text should contain the following sections:
- Abstract
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Experimental (including subsections - 2.1, 2.2...)
- 3. Results and discussion (including topical subsections - 3.1, 3.2...)
4. Conclusion
Acknowledgments
References

Title
The Title should be short and focused on the main scientific discovery.

Abstract
In less than 250 words, the abstract is structured in three parts: the first part abstracts the Introduction section, it thus gives the background, the global and specific issues, and the hypothesis (about 3-4 sentences). The second part abstracts the Experimental section, it thus gives a brief overview of the experiments (about 2-3 sentences). The third part abstracts the Results and Discussion section, it thus gives: the 1-2 major results using precise trends and data, then the interpretation of those results, then the claimed novelty of those results versus current knowledge, then the basic or applied benefits of those results. Novelty claims should be made in an affirmative way, using for instance “Here we show that ...”, “Here we demonstrate that ...” or “This is the first...”.

Text
All text should be written in paragraphs of more than 3 sentences. Orphan sentences should be avoided.

Abbreviations
In general abbreviations are not accepted in the main text because they decrease article impact. Only 1-2 common abbreviations such as DNA or PCR are accepted in the main text. They should be explained at the first time of appearance. Abbreviations in figures, tables and equations are accepted only if there is not enough space to write full words. Here, abbreviations should be explained in figure and table captions, or after equations.

Results and discussion
The Result and Discussion section should be divided into well-thought topical subsections (3.1, 3.2...). Each subsection should give 1) a detailed description of selected result trends with reference to a figure or table in the first or second sentence, usually without literature reference, 2) a discussion of those results and their significance using eventually literature references as support, 3) a brief, one-sentence conclusion on the main discovery and 4) a sentence to introduce the next subsection.

Figures
Figures should be used only to illustrate the major novelty of the article. Figures should be of very high graphical quality. Figures are separate entities and should therefore be understandable without reading the main article text. Caption should thus contain 2-3 sentences explaining the major trend to be observed, e.g. "Note the increase of...", followed by the scientific significance of this trend. See Artwork for more information.

Conclusion
The Conclusion section should be short and focused on the major discovery. The author should repeat in an affirmative way the major result, its interpretation, its novelty versus current knowledge and its precise implications and benefits for the field. The Conclusion section should not contain references, discussions, or vague comments.

References

Citation
Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Some examples:
• Negotiation research spans many disciplines (Thompson 1990).
• This result was later contradicted (Becker and Seligman 1996).

• This effect has been widely studied (Abbott 1991; Barakat et al. 1995; Kelso and Smith 1998; Medvec et al. 1993).

Reference list
The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list. Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work.

• Journal article
  Ideally, the names of all authors should be provided, but the usage of “et al” in long author lists will also be accepted:
• Article by DOI
• Book
• Book chapter
• Online document
• Dissertation
  Trent JW (1975) Experimental acute renal failure. Dissertation, University of California

Always use the standard abbreviation of a journal’s name according to the ISSN List of Title Word Abbreviations, see www.isssn.org/2-22661-LTWA-online.php

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Authors should submit their manuscripts online at http://www.editorialmanager.com/eclj together with a cover letter explaining clearly the claimed novelty of the major finding versus current knowledge. Authors should suggest a list of 4 international experts (of which two should be of countries other than the country/ies of the main authors) including e-mail and postal addresses.

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After online publication, further changes can only be made in the form of an Erratum, which will be hyperlinked to the article.

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