

GENERAL INFORMATION

Journal of Plant Ecology (JPE) is a peer-reviewed international journal of plant ecology, which serves as an important medium for Chinese and international ecologists to present research findings and discuss challenging issues in the broad field of plant ecology. Research and review articles published in JPE will be of interest to all types of plant ecologists. JPE includes special issues/features focusing on the frontiers in plant ecology with invited reviews written by the leading ecologists in the field.

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts should be submitted via the web-based submission system. Manuscripts should be typewritten using size 12 Times New Roman on one side only of A4 size, aligned left and double-spaced with margins of at least 3 cm. All pages should be numbered sequentially. Each line of the text should also be numbered consecutively. Manuscripts should be written in clear, concise and scientific language, nomenclature and standard international units should be used.

The first page should contain the title (not exceeding 100 characters), the name(s) of the author(s), the name(s) and address(es) of the institution(s) where the work was carried out, followed by the contact details of the author to whom correspondence should be sent (address, telephone, fax, and e-mail). Any acknowledgements or any footnotes referring to the title, including sources of financial support (for Chinese authors), should be inserted into the Acknowledgements section, which precedes the References. Authors should also supply a running title which will appear at the top of the page, this should not exceed 50 characters, including spaces.

Each paper must begin with a structured abstract of no more than 450 words, including three parts: *Aims*, *Methods* and *Important Findings* (reviews and forums should omit *Methods*). *Aims* should briefly state the context and primary objectives of the study. *Methods* should concisely state the location (for field studies) and major techniques and procedures used in the study. *Important Findings* should take up no more than half of the abstract and summarize only the most important results and their significance. Three to five *Key Words* should be supplied after the abstract for indexing purposes.

The body of the text should be subdivided into the following main headings:

- Introduction should be concise and define the scope of the work in relation to other work done in the same field.
- Materials and methods should be brief but informative enough for reproduction of the work; when methods published in standard journals are followed without any modification, a reference to the work should be listed.
- Results and Discussion should be combined and presented with clarity and precision.
- Acknowledgements
- References

There are facilities for publishing data on the Internet (e.g. appendices, additional tables, graphics and other material useful for enhancing the understanding of the manuscript) as supplementary data, which would not be subject to these length constraints (see also below).

Suggesting reviewers

Please also include the names of 3–5 individuals that are qualified to review your manuscript. Indicate the name, institution and email address of each individual. We will try to have at least one reviewer from the set that you have requested. You may also request a member of the editorial team that you think is best suited to handle your manuscript.

REVISED MANUSCRIPTS

Revised manuscripts should be returned via the online submission system within two months of the date from when the invitation was sent; revised manuscripts received after this time will be considered as new submissions. Revised manuscripts should be accompanied by a detailed response letter on how all the concerns of the editor and referees have been addressed. Please give the exact page number(s), paragraph(s) and line number(s) where each revision was made. Please copy this letter in 'Response to reviews' during submission.

Format: Original source files are required to avoid delays if the manuscript is accepted. The main text must be provided as Microsoft Word. References, Figure Legends and Tables should be included in the Word file.

ABBREVIATIONS

Standard chemical symbols may be used in the text where desirable in the interests of conciseness. For long chemical names and other cumbersome terms, widely accepted abbreviations may be used in the text (e.g. ATP, DNA); the list of standard abbreviations published by *The Biochemical Journal* (<http://www.biochemj.org/bj/bj12a.htm>) is an acceptable guide. Abbreviations for the names of less common compounds may be used, but the full term should be given on first mention. It is confusing and unnecessary to use abbreviations for common English words (e.g. L for light).

SCIENTIFIC NAMES

The complete scientific name (genus, species, and authority, and cultivar where appropriate) must be cited for every organism at the first mention. The generic name may be abbreviated to the initial thereafter except where intervening references to other genera with the same initial could cause confusion. If vernacular names are employed, they must be accompanied by the correct scientific name on first use.

CHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY NOMENCLATURE

Follow *Chemical Abstracts* and its indexes for chemical names. The IUPAC and IUBMB recommendations on chemical, biochemical, and molecular biology nomenclature should be followed (see <http://www.chem.qmw.ac.uk/iupac> and <http://www.chem.qmw.ac.uk/iubmb>).

UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

The metric system is adopted as standard. The system of units known as 'SI' should be used. If non-standard abbreviations must be used they should be defined in the text. Units of measurement should be spelled out except when preceded by a numeral, when they should be abbreviated in the standard form: g, mg, cm³, etc. and not followed by full stops. Use negative exponents to indicate units in the denominator (i.e. mmol m⁻² s⁻¹).

Numbers up to ten should be spelled out in the text except when referring to measurements. Numbers higher than ten are to be represented as numerals except at the beginning of a sentence. Fractions are to be expressed as decimals.

Dates should be cited thus: 7 June 2001 and the 24 hour clock should be used.

SEQUENCE DATA

Deposition of amino acid sequences of proteins or nucleotide sequences is required before publication, and the database accession number must be given in the text of the manuscript. Microarray Gene Expression Data should comply with the minimum information about microarray experiments standard (MIAME; see www.mged.org/miame for more information.)

EQUATIONS

If equations require more than one level of subscript or superscript, please use either 'Microsoft Equation Editor' or 'Math Type'. If anything else is used, the equation has to be re-typed which makes it vulnerable to errors.

TABLES

Tables should be on a separate page, and should be numbered in Arabic numerals with an appropriate legend at the head. They should be included in the text file (either in the .PDF file for first submissions or in the Word file for accepted manuscripts).

FIGURES

Figures should be self-explanatory and contain as much information as is consistent with clarity. All figures must carry the figure number in Arabic numerals. Citation in the text should take the form Fig. 1a etc. The minimum resolution for the figures is 300 dpi (dots per inch) for tone or colour, 1200 dpi for line art at approximately the correct size for publication. Colour figures should be CMYK (Cyan-Magenta-Yellow-Black).

Line drawings should be clear: faint shading or stippling will be lost upon reproduction and should be avoided and heavy shading or stippling may appear black. Lines and symbols should be drawn boldly enough to stand reduction to the desired size. For graphs where reduction to one-half in linear dimensions is intended, a suitable thickness for the axis would be 0.3 mm and for the other lines 0.4 or 1.0 mm depending on the complexity of the graph.

The preferred symbols are closed circle, open circle, closed square, open square, closed triangle, and open triangle and should be no smaller than 2 mm (height/diameter) for reduction to one-half. The symbols x and + should be avoided.

Photographs not supplied electronically, must be of high quality, printed on glossy paper and mounted neatly on a thin white card base, leaving a narrow gap between each print. Irregular and asymmetrically distributed groups of photographs will not be accepted. Individual figures should be lettered, a, b, c, etc. on the photograph using a lettering set. Other lettering, arrows, etc. may be put on the photograph by the author; otherwise they should be indicated in the exact position required on a transparent or translucent self-locating overlay. On no account should any marks be made on the photograph itself.

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Legends A separate typewritten, double-spaced list of legends of all figures must be supplied and included in the text file. Each legend should contain sufficient explanation to be meaningful without cross-referencing. A scale of the original should be included in the legend unless already indicated in the picture. A description of the symbols used in the figures should be written out in full. (Please do not include the character symbol in the legend.)

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Cover illustrations will be taken from, or be associated with, an article that appears in the journal, where possible. Authors wishing to submit a potential cover illustration should indicate it at the time of submission. The potential cover illustration figures must be supplied in electronic format as .TIFF, and resolution must be above 300 dpi at publication size. Please supply a short concise caption to appear inside the journal.

For useful information on preparing figures, visit <http://dx.sheridan.com> where you can also test whether your figures are suitable for production by using the preflight tool at <http://dx.sheridan.com/on/>. Please note that all labels used in figures should be in lower case in both the figure and the legend. The journal reserves the right to reduce the size of illustrative material. All micrographs must carry a magnification bar.

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Supplementary data may be submitted for online only publication if it adds value for potential readers. However, it must not contain material critical to the understanding of the manuscript. The hard copy of the manuscript should stand alone, but it should be indicated at an appropriate point in the text that supplementary material is available on-line. In addition, the availability of supplementary material should also be indicated in the manuscript by a section heading 'Supplementary Data' with a brief description of these data to appear before the Acknowledgements and References. Please name your supplementary material and cite it within the manuscript as Figure S1, Table S1, Video S1, etc. and provide a detailed legend.

Electronic files of supplementary material are preferable as one complete .PDF file. If images are supplied as .GIFs or .JPEGs, the minimum acceptable resolution for viewing on screen is 120 dpi.

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Authors should carefully check the supplementary data as this information is not professionally copy edited or proofread.

LITERATURE CITATION

Citations in the text should have the authors immediately followed by the date to facilitate the electronic linkages which are available on-line, for example: (Shen and Ma 2001) or Shen and Ma (2001). If several papers by the same author in the same year are cited, they should be lettered in sequence (2000a, b), etc. When papers are by more than two authors they should be cited thus: (Shen *et al.* 2001).

In the list, references must be placed in alphabetical order without serial numbering.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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