

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

Instructions to Authors for Manuscript Preparation

(REVISED 2010)

*Authors are urged to study these instructions carefully and to comply with them.
Manuscripts not conforming to the style of Tropical Ecology will be returned without review.*

Tropical Ecology is the official journal of the International Society for Tropical Ecology (ISTE) and is open to persons of all nations. Membership of ISTE is not a prerequisite for publishing in *Tropical Ecology*.

Scope. *Research* and *review* papers in all fields of ecology related to the tropics and subtropics are considered for publication. Areas of current interest include: Ecology of vegetation and ecosystems; soil ecology; stress ecology; conservation and restoration ecology; evolutionary ecology; ecology of global change and sustainable ecosystems; biological diversity and ecosystem function; human ecology. Papers on new ecological concepts, methodology and reviews on contemporary themes, not necessarily confined to the tropics, may also be considered.

Tropical Ecology will also publish *Short Communications* containing technical comments, new ideas/concepts, or results, which deserve rapid communication.

There is no page charge. Papers are generally limited to 15 printed pages. *Short Communications* should not exceed 2000 words with a maximum of four small display (Figure/Table) items and 25-30 references. Three pages of double space typescript equal approximately one printed page of the journal.

Refereeing. All manuscripts are peer reviewed. Authors must provide names of 3 - 4 potential referees with complete postal and email address. However, the editors are not obligated to use any of the referees provided by the authors.

Language. Manuscripts can be submitted in English, Spanish or Portuguese.

Manuscript Format. The manuscript must be typed in *double space* throughout including *abstract, text, references, tables, and legends of figures*.

The manuscript should be arranged in the following sequence: Title-page, Abstract, Text, Acknowledgement(s), References, Table(s), Legend to Figure(s), Figure(s).

Title Page. The title should concisely identify the contents and the by-line should comprise the author's name and complete address of the institution where the work was carried out. If there are more than one author, the address of the author to whom further correspondence is to be made should be indicated on this page, together with email address.

Footnotes should be used only when absolutely necessary, for instance, to indicate the corresponding author, or a change of address.

A running headline of not more than 40 letters including spaces should be indicated.

Abstract. Following the title page, a self-contained abstract *not exceeding 150 words* and typed on a *separate* page should be placed. The first sentence of the abstract should indicate the objectives of the study. Subsequent sentences should indicate the location of the study, methods and summarize major findings. The last sentence should articulate the major conclusion(s).

Key Words. From 6 to 10 key words, arranged alphabetically, should be listed and placed after the abstract.

Text. The text should begin on a fresh page and may be divided into sections, such as Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion. Not more than three levels of *headings* should ordinarily be used in the text. The first-order heading (e.g. Introduction, Results, etc.) should be typed first-letter-cap-rest-lower-case and centered; both second- and third-order headings should be typed first-letter-cap-rest-lower-case (e.g. *Effects of the site variables*), but the former centered and the latter placed on the extreme left. A *Short Communication* shall not have subsection headings until Acknowledgement(s) and References.

Indicate the authority for all Latin names only once, when the name is first mentioned in the text, tables or figures. Alternatively, provide a general reference to a standard source of nomenclature, such as a well known regional Flora, at an

appropriate place. Except Latin names, no other words should be italicized in the text. In the text, the references should be cited using a name and year system. If more than one paper is cited in a single year by the same author, this should be indicated by a suffix, a, b, etc. to the year, both in the text and the list of references. Examples: McNaughton (1976); Singh (1986a, b); Pierce & Peak (1984); or (Knight 1965, 1970; McNaughton 1976; Pierce & Peak 1984). *Note that within the parenthesis the names of authors are arranged alphabetically.*

In case there are more than two authors of a paper use *et al.* after the first name in the text, e.g. Pascal *et al.* (1988); however, if more than one paper of the same first author but with different second or third author are cited for the same year, all the names should be given e.g. (Singh, Pandey & Tiwari 1984; Singh, Rawat & Chaturvedi 1984; Singh, Rawat & Sharma 1984).

A reference to an unpublished work may be cited in the text as 'In press' if the paper has been accepted by a journal. In such cases the name of the journal should be included in the reference list. Reference to a paper not yet accepted by a journal can be cited in the text as 'unpublished' and omitted from the reference list.

Acknowledgement(s) (if any) should be included at the end of the text.

References. List all references cited in the text in alphabetical order, giving the *name of the journal in full*. List the names of all authors in a reference. The style and the portions of references to be *italicised* are exemplified below.

Papers in Journals and other periodicals

Hanely, T.A. & K.A. Hanley. 1982. Food resources partitioning by sympatric ungulates on Great Basin rangeland. *Journal of Range Management* **35**: 152-158.

Ovington, J.D. 1962. Quantitative ecology and the woodland ecosystem concept. *Advances in Ecological Research* **1**: 103-192.

Singh, R.S., S.C. Srivastava, A.S. Raghubanshi, J.S. Singh & S.P. Singh. 1991. Microbial C, N and P in dry tropical savanna: Effects of burning and grazing. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **28**: 869-878.

Papers in Edited Books, Symposia Proceedings, etc.
Cole, D.W. & M. Rapp. 1981. Elemental cycling in forest ecosystems. pp. 341-409. *In*: D.E. Reichle (ed.) *Dynamic Properties of Forest Ecosystems*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Kobriger, G.D. 1980. Food availability, nutrition and body weights of gray partridge in North Dakota. pp. 70-86. *In*: S.R. Peterson & L. Nelson Jr. (eds.) *Proceedings of Perdix II Gray Partridge Workshop*. University of Idaho, U.S.A.

Books

Lieth, H. & R.H. Whittaker (eds.). 1976. *Primary Productivity of the Biosphere*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin.

Odum, E.P. 1971. *Fundamentals of Ecology*. 3rd edn. W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.

Reports, Dissertations, etc.

Sollins, P., D.E. Reichle & J.S. Olson. 1973. *Organic Matter Budget and Model for a Southern Appalachian Liriodendron Forest*. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, U.S.A.

Srivastava, S.K. 1985. *Seasonal Dry Matter Dynamics and Nutrient Relations of Fine Roots in Teak Plantations in a Dry Tropical Region*. Ph.D. Thesis. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India.

Tables. Each table should be typed on a separate sheet and provided with a short title. Tables should be numbered in Arabic numerals and cited consecutively in the text. The data should not be duplicated in tables and figures.

Very large tables should be avoided. Upright (portrait) tables are preferred, fitting within one column or page. Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. In tables (and in the text) only significant digits should be shown in the numerical data.

Figures. Figures should be numbered in Arabic and cited consecutively in the text. Letters, ordinates, abscissae and other scale markings must be large/bold enough to stand reduction of up to 50%. Histogram shading should be simple and clearly reproducible (avoid solid fills.) The figures should be devoid of external borders. Preferably upon reduction the dimensions of figures should conform to one column space (22 x 8.5 cm). *Larger figures shall be reduced within 8.5 to 15 cm on the horizontal axis.*

Figure Legend. Figure explanation should be placed *not* on the actual figures, but in the legend typed on a separate sheet.

Photographs. Only essential photographs on glossy paper and with good contrast should be submitted. When more than one photograph is submitted, they should be grouped on a plate. Each photograph should be identified on its back

with its number and author's name. Photographs should be cited as figures in the text.

For printing of photographs/images in colour, there will be a charge payable by the author(s) to the press.

Proofs. Author(s) will receive proofs for correction (*not revision*), which should be returned to the Chief Editor by *airmail, by courier or by email within two days of its receipt*. Alterations to the text and illustrations are unacceptable at the proof stage; authors can be charged for changes in their manuscript.

Offprints. Any number of reprints (in multiples of 25) can be purchased, if ordered, when the proofs are returned.

Common units, symbols and abbreviations

Use the Systeme International d'Units (SI): metre (for length), kilogram (mass), second (time), ampere (current), kelvin (temperature), candela (luminous intensity) and mole (amount of substance); and two supplementary units: radian (plane angle) and steradian (solid angle).

All data must be given in metric system, using SI units where possible. Use expressions like: kg ha⁻¹, cm² g⁻¹, g m⁻², g C m⁻², kg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹, g g⁻¹ day⁻¹, kJ ha⁻¹. Recommended prefixes for use with SI units are:

Prefix	Name	Abbreviation	Length	Weight	Time
10 ⁻⁹	nano	n	nm	ng	ns
10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ	μm	μg	μs
10 ⁻³	milli	m	mm	mg	ms
10 ⁻²	centi	c	cm		
10 ⁻¹	deci	d	dm		
			m	g	s
10 ³	kilo	k	km	kg	
10 ⁶	mega	M		Mg	
10 ⁹	giga	G		Gg	

Derived SI unit for energy is Joule (abbreviated J), which should be used instead of calorie (1 cal=4.186 J).

Volume is generally reported in litre (l) and millilitre (ml).

Among acceptable non-SI unit measures are: degree Celsius (temperature), hour, day, year (time); hectare (area); tonne (weight); degree, minute and second (angle).

Abbreviations do not take a plural form and should not be followed by a full stop; e.g. use 8 cm (not 8 cm. or 8 cms).

Following symbols and abbreviations are frequently used:

centimeter	cm
degree Celsius	°C
degree of freedom	d.f.
gram	g
hectare	ha
hour	h
Joule	J
kilogram	kg
litre (dm ³)	l
logarithm	log ₁₀
logarithm (base e)	ln or log _e
lux	lx
kilometre	km
metre	m
minute (time)	min
minute (angle)	'(e.g. 25')
not significant	N.S.
numbers of observations	n
parts per billion	ppb
parts per million	ppm
per cent	%
per thousand	‰
second (time)	s
second (angle)	(e.g. 25")
standard deviation	S.D.
standard error	S.E.
tonne (10 ³ kg)	t
watt	W

Some measures are not to be abbreviated, including day, month, year.

Preparation of Electronic Version of Manuscripts

Adhere to the following recommendations for the preparation of electronic version of the manuscript.

Text. Text should be typed using size 12 Times New Roman or Courier font, double-spaced throughout and with a margin of approx. 25 mm. All pages should be numbered sequentially. The article file should be in PC-compatible Microsoft Word file (.DOC) format. Please do *not* submit PDFs, desktop publishing files or LaTeX files. The article file should *include* list of figure legends. Tables and figures should be placed in the text file at the end.

Tables. The best guide for laying out tables and diagrams are articles in a recent issue of *Tropical Ecology*. Each table should have a complete

caption at the top and be numbered Table 1, Table 2, etc. according to the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Each table is to be typed on a separate page. When preparing tables, adopt the 'Tables' set-up in MS Word, using one cell for each datum cluster (e.g. 12.2 ± 1.65) and avoid the use of the 'return' key. Please do not use MS Excel for submitting tables.

Figures. All images (e.g. line diagrams, drawings, graphs, photographs, plates) are considered to be 'Figures'. Each figure should be on a separate page. Figures should be numbered (Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.) according to the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. The figure legends should be included at the end of the text file on a separate page. Electron and light photomicrographs should have internal scale markers.

We prefer figures in TIFF, or high quality JPEG format. For vector graphics, EPS is the preferred format. We can also handle Photoshop files (.psd). We may not be able to use other file formats. The following resolutions are optimal: line figures – 600-1200 dpi; photographs - 300 dpi. Colour artwork should be saved as CMYK, not RGB. Font-related problems can be avoided by using standard fonts such as Century Schoolbook, Courier or Helvetica. Hard copies of colour photographs may also be required as some times it becomes necessary to scan these.

Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts should be submitted as email attachment to the Chief Editor (tropecol@gmail.com). The covering letter should have the author's functional email ID because all correspondence will be made only through email. A manuscript tracking number will be assigned to each ms and the authors shall quote this number in all subsequent correspondence. Authors are advised not to compress the ms in a zip file.

Alternatively, manuscripts may be submitted to any of the Editors/Associate Editors (postal and email addresses are given under Editorial Board at www.tropecol.com), with a copy to the Chief Editor. However, manuscripts in Portuguese must be submitted to R.M.A. Sardinha and those in Spanish to Jorge Meave.

The Associate Editors will be pleased to receive and consider mss in the following areas:

José A. Amador (jamador@uri.edu): Microbial ecology, applied soil ecology, biogeochemistry, ecosystem ecology, soil microbiology and water quality.

S. K. Barik (sarojbarik@gmail.com): Forest and ecosystem ecology, community ecology, plant population ecology, applications of multivariate analyses in ecology, conservation biology, and ecological niche modelling.

Ankila J. Hiremath (hiremath@atree.org): Invasive species, fire ecology, nutrient use efficiency/nutrient cycling and ecological restoration.

David Goodall (d.goodall@ecu.edu.au): Vegetation science, arid-land ecology, statistical treatment of ecological data.

N. Parthasarathy (parthapu@yahoo.com): Forest structure, forest biodiversity and regeneration.

G.S. Rawat (rawatg@wii.gov.in): Plant Ecology, wildlife ecology and habitat evaluation, biodiversity assessment.

Demel Teketay Fanta (demelteketaf.fanta@orc.ub.bw, dteketay@yahoo.com): Forest ecology including diversity, regeneration, restoration, conservation and livelihoods, ethnobotany and ethno-ecology, impact of plantations on indigenous species, seed and seedling ecology.

Francisco J. Vilella (fvilella@cfr.msstate.edu): Biodiversity conservation, conservation and restoration ecology, population ecology and wildlife management.

Jeremy M. Wojdak (jmwojdak@radford.edu): Ecological theory, aquatic community ecology, species interactions, ecological parasitology, biodiversity and ecosystem function.

The ms shall be reviewed by 2 to 3 experts, and on the basis of their comments and the Editor's own evaluation, the concerned Editor shall either reject the ms or return it to the corresponding author for revision. The Editor shall evaluate the revised ms and if it is found acceptable, shall ask for a final version. The final version of the ms shall contain 3 files, one for the text including title page and figure legends, the second for tables and the third for figures.

Submission of a ms to *Tropical Ecology* shall imply that the same has not been submitted elsewhere. It is the responsibility of the author(s) using copyrighted material to obtain permission beforehand from the original copyright-holder(s).

