

## ADVICE TO AUTHORS

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The *American Naturalist* is a monthly journal devoted to furthering the objectives of the American Society of Naturalists (ASN):

to advance our understanding of evolution, ecology, behavior, and other broad biological disciplines toward the conceptual unification of the biological sciences.

The journal welcomes manuscripts that develop new conceptual syntheses or that offer novel perspectives on important issues of general significance that will be of interest to the broad readership of the *American Naturalist*. Brief discussion, criticism, and comment are published in the "Notes and Comments" section.

**Articles:** The *American Naturalist* will consider articles of any length but prefers manuscripts that have 21 manuscript pages or fewer of text, not including the literature cited, and have no more than six tables and/or figures for the print edition. Additional material can appear in the expanded online edition. Such material can include appendixes, tables, and figures as well as electronic enhancements such as video, sound, and data files (see details below). The expanded online edition is the full-text edition, is copyrighted, and will be maintained by the University of Chicago Press in perpetuity. Symposium articles are by invitation only (usually as part of a supplement issue).

**Comments:** Comments provide criticisms, corrections, or new analyses of articles published in the *American Naturalist*. They should be brief and the tone should be professional. The authors should identify the article or group of articles being addressed on the cover page and in the author notes at submission. The author(s) of the critiqued article will be contacted and asked to write a reply. Both will be reviewed together. Both the comment and the reply may be declined, both may be accepted after revision, or an erratum may be published if factual errors have been identified that affect the accuracy of the published record. Comments should be submitted with brief abstracts (no more than 100 words). These abstracts will not be printed but they will be available in the expanded online edition and for use by indexes such as Medline.

**Notes:** Notes communicate concise points, using either data or theory, that substantively enhance the broader conceptual advances that typify articles in the *American Naturalist*. Notes generally are not as fully developed as articles but do present observations or insights of broad general significance and interest. Notes are no more than 12 manuscript

pages of text (not including the literature cited) and have no more than three figures and or tables in print. Notes must have abstracts of no more than 150 words. These will appear in the print edition and in the expanded online edition.

In general, time from submission to the appearance of an article in the print edition is ranging from seven to twelve months. The average time to first decision is slightly over two months. Individual manuscripts vary. Authors who wish to make corrections to their own published material should e-mail the journal office.

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## Manuscript Preparation

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The *American Naturalist* now uses the Web Peer Review system developed by the University of Chicago Press. This means that there are two sets of standards for manuscript preparation--one set for the review process and another for the production process after a manuscript is accepted. The journal office will contact authors of accepted manuscripts about changes that might be needed for production.

The first page of the manuscript file should be a title page that includes the title; the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of all authors; a list of four to six keywords; a running head of less than 40 characters and spaces; and a list of all the elements of the manuscript that will appear in the expanded online edition by title (e.g., app. B, table A1, color version of fig. 1). Also list any figures that are to print in color. The title page should indicate whether the manuscript is a note, a comment, a reply, or a symposium (invited) article. **The title page must list e-mail addresses for every author before it will be processed.**

The *American Naturalist* does not allow titles with roman numerals. The title of each paper must stand on its own.

The second page should be the one-paragraph abstract, without citations, of 200 words or fewer for articles, 150 words or fewer for notes, and 100 words or fewer for comments.

Manuscripts should be in the following order: title page, abstract, text, acknowledgments, appendixes, literature cited, tables (each table should begin on a new page), figures and legends (a legend may appear on the same

page as the figure in the PDF used for review). Each element should begin on a new page. Footnotes to tables should be typed on the last page of the table to which they apply.

**Number all pages.** Manuscripts under review may have line numbering to assist reviewers.

Use a standard 12-point font (Times, Arial, or Courier) on a page set up for regular letter-size paper (to enable printing of the PDF). **ALL elements of the manuscript (including literature cited, tables, and figure legends) must be double spaced.** Manuscripts that deviate from this standard may be returned without review.

Manuscripts produced in LaTeX will have a different appearance and order of material. When using LaTeX, please see the instructions at [AASTeX](#). Please place a note on the title page that the manuscript was prepared with AASTeX following AmNat instructions (reviewers find the format of AASTeX unfamiliar). Production prefers the use of AASTeX for complicated math.

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## File Format

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Authors should use the Web Peer Review system at <http://mss.uchicago.edu/AN>. When using the system they should inspect the PDF file themselves before it goes out for review. **Using the system shortens the time it takes to get a manuscript into review.**

Production criteria require files to be in Word, WordPerfect, RTF, or LaTeX/AASTeX, but the review process is conducted entirely via PDF. The Web Peer Review system is designed to convert RTF or Word files automatically into PDF that authors can inspect. Authors can also provide their own PDF files.

See the [specific system instructions](#) for instructions on how to name files and how to use zip or compression systems to save on upload time. Files in other formats can be uploaded into the manuscript directory after the main manuscript files have been uploaded and processed.

**All tables and figures must be embedded in the same PDF before review.** If authors cannot format their files for the system, they may e-mail them

as attachments to the journal office. If you are sending the files directly to the office, please include the lead author's name in the file name.

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## Author Notes/Cover Letters

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When submitting a manuscript, you must include the following information before the manuscript will be processed:

- ◆ that the article is not being considered for publication elsewhere
- ◆ that all authors have seen and approved the manuscript
- ◆ that the manuscript has not appeared on the Web in another form of electronic publication (e.g., preprint archives, etc.).

Place any discussion of reviewers into the fields labeled "recommended reviewers" and "nonpreferred reviewers." Use these fields to discuss associate editors. DO NOT DISCUSS REVIEWERS OR ASSOCIATE EDITORS IN A COVER LETTER FILE. Reviewers have access to files named "cover letter" (see the next paragraph). Please use the NOTES field at initial submission for all commentary.

Revisions and resubmissions must provide a separate "cover\_letter" file that is a detailed response to the reviews and recommendations. This file can be read by the editorial board and by any reviewers assigned to the later version(s). The Web Peer Review system allows additional files, such as the cover letter file to be uploaded after the main manuscript file has been uploaded and processed. If there is information that you want only the editor in chief to see, please send it in an e-mail to the journal office.

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## Text Preparation

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Material should, in general, conform to the *Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition)* and the *Council of Biology Editors Manual of Scientific Style and Format*. Parenthetical material may be placed in substantive footnotes. Longer parenthetical material may appear as a text box.

- ◆ Provide both scientific and common names of all organisms discussed.
- ◆ Use either italics or underlining throughout equations and text. Do not use both in the same file.
- ◆ Do not use italics or bold for emphasis.
- ◆ Avoid numbered or lettered lists. Numbered lists are not journal style. Use ordinals ("first," "second") instead.
- ◆ Use the International System of Units (SI) for all measurements.
- ◆ Do not present the same information in both a table and a figure.

## Math

- ◆ Introduce every variable and label used at its first occurrence. A table of definitions can also be helpful.
- ◆ See instructions about preparing math for Production at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/msprep-math.html>.

## References

- ◆ List in-text citations chronologically, then alphabetically for the same year.
- ◆ Cite unpublished work as "A. B. Smith and C. D. Jones, unpublished data" or "E. F. Smith and G. H. Jones, unpublished manuscript." "In review" is unpublished. Only published or in press material is listed in the literature cited.
- ◆ Spell out all journal and press names in the literature cited.
- ◆ Follow journal reference style. For example:
 

Hubbell, S. P., and R. B. Foster. 1986. Canopy gaps and the dynamics of a Neotropical forest.  
 Pages 77-96 in M. J. Crawley, ed. *Plant ecology*. Blackwell Scientific, Oxford.

Maynard Smith, J. 1966. Sympatric speciation. *American Naturalist* 100:637-650.

## Appendixes

- ◆ Provide a title for each appendix in addition to the label (e. g., "Appendix A: Model of the Negotiation Process")
- ◆ Add the word "online" before the label (e. g., "Online Appendix A") for appendixes that will appear only in the expanded online edition and are in the same file format as the rest of the text (e. g., Word, WordPerfect). Leave the online appendixes in the main file between the acknowledgments and the literature cited with the print appendixes. Do not put online-only material in separate files unless it is in separate file formats.
- ◆ List the appendix or appendix tables and figures that are going in the expanded online edition by label (e. g., "Table A1") on the cover page.

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## Tables

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Tables for manuscripts under review must be embedded in the file or PDF unless they are large online-only data files that must appear as tab-delineated ASCII (such as large datasets in Excel).

- ◆ Table titles should be short, concise, and descriptive. All other information should be placed in a table note.

- ◆ Print tables are numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text. All print tables must be referred to in the text. All online-only tables are appendix tables and are labeled according to the appendix they belong in (e.g., stand-alone table 1, the only online-only enhancement, is named "table A1"). If they are cited only within an appendix, then they are named for their appendix (e.g., table C2 is the second table cited in appendix C). All of the rules for tables apply to online-only tables.

- ◆ There are no vertical or horizontal lines in the body of an AmNat table. There are no panels. There is no graphical representation of any kind. If a table must have a graphical aspect, then it should be renamed a figure.

- ◆ A table has the same column headings throughout. If the column headings change, it is a new table with a new table number and a new table title.

- ◆ Sequences should be taxonomic with family headings or alphabetical by scientific name.

- ◆ Online-only tables should have the word "online" before the label to clarify the situation in review and to Editorial.

For further instructions on formatting tables for production, see [www.journals.uchicago.edu/msprep-tables.html](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/msprep-tables.html)

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## Figures and Images

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Figures and photographs for manuscripts under review must be embedded in the original file or PDF before it can go out for review. Do not send

separate figure files unless the journal office requests them or you are having some other difficulty with inserting or embedding the figures yourself.

- ◆ Label panels with capital letters and refer to them in text as "figure 2A" etc.
- ◆ Confine all the panels of the same figure to the same page.
- ◆ Number figures in the order in which they are cited in the text. All figures must be referred to in the text. Number all figures cited in the text consecutively, including online-only figures. Include the word "online" before the label for online-only figures (e.g., online figure 3). All of the rules for figures apply to online-only figures, which should be high enough quality to print. If a figure is cited only in an appendix, then the figure is labeled accordingly (e.g., a figure cited only in appendix B would be labeled "figure B1".)

**When designing figures, please keep these criteria in mind:**

◆ Do not use type that is small in relation to the overall size of the figure. Figures are reduced to fit either on one column (19 picas) or across two columns (39.8 picas). The smallest font in the reduced figure cannot be less than 6 points. Production may be delayed until the author redoes the fonts so that figures can be reduced to the appropriate size for printing. Check the PDF before review to make sure the figure is large and clear for reviewers.

◆ **Do not use lines that are hairline widths or thinner than 2 points. Do not use faint shades of gray. They vanish when the figure is reduced in size and resampled in processing.**

◆ Use Arial for figures. This often avoids the problem of embedding fonts (when fonts are not embedded, lettering can vanish or be distorted) and Arial is clear and easy to read.

◆ Create the original images at a high enough resolution. Low-resolution images will have to be redone by the authors at the time of production and are hard on reviewers as well. For print production, line art should be at 600 dpi, grayscale and color art should be at 300 dpi.

High-resolution PDF images used for the review process can often be converted by the journal office to meet the University of Chicago Press' standards, so do not worry about specific figure file formats until contacted by the journal office after acceptance.

Color art is printed in four colors (CMYK) and is presented in the expanded online edition in three colors (RGB). There can be a color shift as much as 15% between the two formats. Authors should check their graphics in both modes before finalizing the color scheme.

**FONTS MUST BE EMBEDDED IN THE EPS FILE.** If fonts are not embedded, other fonts can get substituted or eliminated altogether and the figures will distort or lose information. Hard copies of color images should be high-resolution glossy prints, slides, or transparencies (in case the electronic file is unusable).

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## Electronic Enhancements

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The online edition of articles will include all elements of the print edition. The online edition may also be expanded to include additional appendixes, tables, figures, and electronic enhancements. If possible, online material should be included in the same file as the main text. Files in other formats can be uploaded after the main file is uploaded via the Web Peer Review system. In addition to the appendixes, figures, and tables discussed above, enhancements may be material that could not appear in the print edition:

*Spreadsheet data*--(such as Excel) as tab-delineated ASCII, which can be downloaded into other spreadsheets

*Short audio files*--in WAV or AIFF format (MP3 files will be accepted if the sound quality is adequate)

*Video files*--in MPEG or Quicktime format under three minutes (no streaming video)

*Color art*--(art that is printed in black and white or halftones can appear as color in the expanded online edition [full-text edition]. Color art that appears only in the online edition should be in RGB mode.

Other enhancements can be handled on a case-by-case basis. All online enhancements must have the approval of the editor.

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## Submissions

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If you cannot use [Web Peer Review](#), then send manuscripts to

[Managing Editor](#)

*The American Naturalist*

University of Chicago Press

1427 East 60th Street

Chicago, IL 60637

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## Publication Charges

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The publication cost to the American Society of Naturalists (ASN) per page of the journal is around \$150. Unfortunately, the ASN has limited funds to cover these costs. Authors are asked to pay \$55 per page for the first 11 print pages of their article. For any printed pages over 11, the authors are asked to pay \$70 per page. Authors of web-only articles are asked to pay \$45 a page for all typeset pages. Publication charges for web-only articles defray some of the costs for such things as technical support and editorial and production time that are still necessary.

The ASN will grant a waiver (or partial waiver) for the costs of the first 11 pages (print or web only), if none of the authors have funding for page charges, if one of the authors is a member of the ASN, and if the ASN member has not had a waiver in the previous 12 months.

Printed color art:

\$600 a page for nonmembers

\$500 a page for members of the ASN.

There is no waiver for printed color art. Web-only articles have no extra charges for color art.

Online-only enhancements:

Appendix material:

\$65 for every 6 manuscript pages for nonmembers

\$55 for every 6 manuscript pages for members of the ASN

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## Special Issues

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When costs can be met by the organizers, the [Editorial Board](#) will consider proposals for special supplements.