

## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

### Objectives and policy of the journal

Biological inorganic chemistry is a field of science which embraces the principles of biology and inorganic chemistry and which has grown tremendously in recent years. This field has important implications for many other sciences, ranging from medicine to the environment. Furthermore, studies of the roles of metal ions in biological systems often involve the development of relevant chemistry, new methodologies of investigation, and the application of advanced physical techniques.

*JBIC (Journal of Biological Inorganic Chemistry)* seeks to promote this field internationally. The journal is primarily concerned with advances in the understanding of systems involving one or more metal ions set in a biological matrix – particularly metalloproteins and metal-nucleic acid complexes – in order to understand biological function at the molecular level. Synthetic analogues mimicking function, structure and spectroscopy of naturally occurring biological molecules are also of interest to the Journal. Manuscripts describing high-quality and original research concerned with metal ions or other “inorganic” species and having biological relevance are invited for submission to this journal. All submissions must be in English. The Journal publishes original articles, minireviews and commentaries on debated issues.

*JBIC* papers should be visually attractive. A minimal amount of text written in a concise style should be accompanied by generous use of figures and tables. Ideally, papers should follow the style of a carefully prepared conference presentation.

Manuscripts should preferably be submitted online using the link on the journal’s home page or directly via <http://jbic.manuscriptcentral.com> and following the on-screen instructions. The e-mail address and fax number of the corresponding author should be provided.

Paper submission can be made by sending one *complete* copy of the manuscript including one set of original figures to Lawrence Que:

Lawrence Que (Chief Editor)  
JBIC

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Acceptance must be preceded by positive evaluation of the paper by at least two referees who are experts in the field. Referees are urged to write their comments in a frank but constructive style. Both positive and negative comments should be detailed, and aimed at improving the quality of the authors’ research in an educational way. Generic negative comments do a poor service to the authors, the journal and the Society. Referees are anonymous, and their identity is not disclosed.

### General instructions

Manuscripts should be concisely written in clear, simple English. All parts of the manuscript (including references, acknowledgements, tables and figure legends) must be typed double spaced (12-point Times font and 24-point line spacing are preferred) with a left margin of at least 2.5 cm.

The author should mark the desired position of figures and tables. Both form and content of the manuscript should be carefully checked to exclude the need for corrections in proof. Should extensive corrections in proof be unavoidable, the correction costs will be charged to the author. However, new results may be given at the end of the paper in a “Note added in proof”. Corrections and Notes added in proof are subject to editorial approval.

Incomplete and imperfect manuscripts will be returned immediately.

Manuscripts must be accompanied by the “Copyright Transfer Statement” (the form is available online and is regularly published in this journal).

### Form of manuscripts

Each manuscript should be divided into the following sections: Abstract, Key words, Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, and Discussion, followed by Acknowledgements (when appropriate), References, tables and figure legends. The Results and Discussion sections may be merged when appropriate. Other headings (e.g., Theoretical Treatments, Instrument Construction, Concluding Remarks, etc.) may be acceptable subject to the editor’s judgement.

The **title page** should contain:

(1) The names of the authors together with their respective affiliations. Addresses should be complete and may be given in the local language. An envelope symbol should be used to indicate to which author correspondence should be sent.

(2) The fax number and e-mail address of the corresponding author.

(3) A list of non-standard abbreviations. Standard abbreviations as used in the biochemical literature, e.g., *Eur J Biochem* 1:259–266 (1967) and *JBIC* 1:G1–G29 (1996) need not be defined.

**Nomenclature.** Insofar as possible, authors should use systematic names similar to those used by Chemical Abstracts Service or IUPAC. A genus/species name should be in italics (underlined once in the typescript) and written out in full at first mention. Thereafter, the name of the genus may be abbreviated to a single letter provided ambiguity is avoided. The genus name is in italics when the whole genus is referred to. When used trivially, genus names are in roman (not underlined). Anglicized versions are not underlined and are capitalized. Strains are designated by capital letters and numbers.

**Abstract.** Each paper must be preceded by an abstract of the most important results in no more than 250 words.

**Key words.** Immediately following the abstract, a maximum of five key words should be supplied for subject indexing.

The **Introduction** should be concise and define the scope of the work in relation to other work done in the same field. It should not as a rule give an exhaustive review of the literature.

**Materials and methods.** This section should provide enough information to permit exact repetition of the experimental work.

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The **Discussion** should be confined to interpretation of the results without repeating them.

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**References** should be limited to directly pertinent published works or papers that have been accepted for publication. Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the citations. The references should start on a new page. References must be numbered serially, with only one reference per number.

All references listed must be cited at the proper point(s) in the text, using the appropriate number(s) in square brackets. If the context demands it, authors’ names may also be mentioned.

#### Example of a journal paper citation:

Zaitseva I, Zaitsev V, Card G, Moshkov K, Bax B, Ralph A, Lindley P (1996) *J Biol Inorg Chem* 1:15–23

Journals should be abbreviated as in the Chemical Abstract Service Source Index (CASSI) 1907–1989 Cumulative and its supplements. As ISI and CAS use the abbreviation “*J. Biol. Inorg. Chem.*” for JBIC citations, this is the form to be used in the reference section of journal articles to minimize confusion.

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#### Example of a book chapter:

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**Crystallographic data.** Manuscripts reporting determinations of molecular structures by X-ray crystallography must be accompanied by supplementary material (see below) containing tables of positional and thermal parameters. Tables of bond lengths and angles may be published within the paper. If publication of more complete crystallographic details is planned, this should be stated in a footnote, with the authors' names and the journal of publication included, if possible.

Before submission, small molecule crystallographic data (without structure factors) must be sent to the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as an ASCII file by e-mail or as a hard copy. The following standard statement can be used in the manuscript: “Crystallographic data (without structure factors) for the structure(s) reported in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication no. CCDC-... Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge from the CCDC (12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; tel: (+44) 1223-336-408; fax: (+44) 1223-336-003; e-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk); www: <http://ccdc.cam.ac.uk>).”

JBIC has developed a further set of guidelines to promote uniform standards for the evaluation of manuscripts that describe macromolecular structures at the atomic level. They are available under: <http://link.springer.de/link/service/journals/00775/index.htm>

Both X-ray and solution structures of proteins are accepted under the condition that the coordinates are made available to the

Protein Data Bank (PDB number should be provided). For structures determined by X-ray and NMR methods, JBIC requires the deposition of both coordinates and structure factors in the Protein Database prior to publication, in accordance with IUCr guidelines.

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