

Instructions for Authors

Aims and scope

SCIENCE CHINA Life Sciences (*Sci China Life Sci*) is an international journal supervised by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and National Natural Science Foundation of China. It is published monthly in English by Science China Press and Springer. The journal is indexed/abstracted in SCI, PubMed, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, SCOPUS, CA, etc.

Sci China Life Sci publishes significant, innovative, and cutting-edge research results in a wide range of areas in life sciences in the form of review, research paper, insight, letter to the editor, research highlight, and news and views.

Review articles provide insightful and authoritative review on a particular topic.

Research Paper reports original observations and discoveries of general interest in life sciences.

Quick Reports describe original and striking observations that may potentially open new avenues for future research. Quick reports may present solid data on provocative topics with broad interest, or a concise conceptual advance (limited to 2,000 words with no more than 3 figures or tables and 30 references. Supporting Information should not contain additional tables or figures but can have extended methods, essential supporting datasets, or videos.)

Insight reviews significant research achievements in life sciences (limited to 1,500 words with one figure or table and no more than 15 references).

Letter to the Editor reports novel findings that have an immediate major impact on current life sciences research (limited to 1,000 words with one figure or table and no more than 10 references).

Research Highlight discusses one or more recently published research articles that are interesting enough to warrant further comment (limited to 1,000 words with one figure or table and no more than 10 references).

News and Views covers original viewpoints on major scientific discoveries, research policies and other scientific events (limited to 1,000 words with one figure or table and no more than 10 references).

All papers appearing in this journal are strictly peer-reviewed before publication. Contributions are invited from researchers all over the world.

Submission of manuscripts

All submitted manuscripts are not assumed to be published previously or concurrently submitted for publication elsewhere. Manuscripts should be prepared for submission in docx or doc format, single-columned, A4 size, 12 pt, single spaced, with tables inserted in the text and figures provided in the original editable form.

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All the submitted manuscripts will be reviewed by expert referees selected by the editorial board. The final decision on a manuscript will be made by the editorial board based on the referees' comments. The entire review process usually takes 40 days, and the editorial office will inform the author of the decision as soon as the process is completed.

Authorship

Authorship should be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work. Submission of a manuscript is taken to imply that all the named authors are aware that they are listed as co-authors, and they have seen and agreed to the submitted version. The corresponding author is the one who should take the major responsibility to ensure that the submitted manuscripts are properly prepared in all aspects.

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Review articles are submitted by invitation only.

Manuscripts of *Research Paper* should be well organized, with concise language and avoiding redundant tables and figures. Authors are advised to use standard international nomenclature, express all measurements in the International System of Units. For a typical *Research Paper*, manuscripts should be divided into the following sections: Title page, Abstract; Introduction, Results, Discussion, Materials and methods, Compliance and ethics, Acknowledgements, References, Figure legends, Figures, and Tables.

Title Page

The title should be concise and informative, and usually limited to no more than 20 words.

Please provide the names, affiliations and addresses (postcode included), and email addresses of all the authors, and telephone number of the corresponding author.

Abstract

It should be a single paragraph, succinctly and clearly describing the major findings reported in the manuscript, and comprehensible to readers who did not read the paper. Abbreviations and specialized terms should be avoided. Reference citations within the abstract are not permitted.

A list of 3–8 keywords reflecting the theme of the manuscript should be provided.

Introduction

It should briefly introduce the relevant background of the research conducted (not a comprehensive review of the specific field), purpose of the study reported, and provide a brief summary of the major findings.

Abbreviations should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter. Please do not use subheadings in the introduction.

Results

Major observations and conclusions of the reported study should be clearly and logically described here. Informative subheadings should be used in this section. Please use different font sizes to indicate headings and subheadings without numbering.

Discussion

The significance of the reported discoveries in the paper should be discussed with historical and future perspectives. Hypotheses or theories supported by solid evidence might be proposed here. This section may contain subheadings and can in some cases be combined with the Results section.

Materials and methods

This section should only contain sufficient detail so that all experimental procedures can be repeated by others, in conjunction with cited references. Only truly new procedures should be described in detail here.

Compliance and ethics

All authors are required to declare any Conflict of Interest (CoI) in detail, i.e., each author individually by name must declare any potential CoI, and declare that s/he does not have any CoI.

For studies involving human subjects and animals, authors must also state that they conformed with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975 (as revised in 2008) concerning Human and Animal Rights, and that they followed out the policy concerning Informed Consent as shown on Springer.com.

Acknowledgements

This is for the authors to express their gratitude to those who have helped during their research. Information concerning funding organizations (including the grant numbers) for the reported research is usually provided here as well. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

References

The references section should include all printed/online journal articles, books and book chapters, published conference proceedings, and meeting abstracts. Please cite unpublished data (including submitted manuscripts), personal communications, and databases in text only. Arrange the citations in alphabetical order. Note that “et al.” should only be used after 10 authors. Please refer to the following examples:

- Article in a periodical
Hu, C.H., Hu, W.P., Zhang, F.B., Hu, Z.X., Li, X.H., and Chen, Y.G. (2006). Sediment resuspension in Lake Taihu, China. *Chin Sci Bull* 51, 731–737.

- Article in a book
Polito, V.S. (1983). Calmodulin and calmodulin inhibitors: Effect on pollen germination and tube growth. In *Pollen: Biology and Implication for Plant Breeding*, D.L. Mulvshy, and E. Ottaviano, ed. (New York: Elsevier), pp. 53–60.
- An entire book
Norman, I.J., and Redfern, S.J. (1996). *Mental Health Care for Elderly People* (New York: Churchill Livingstone).
- Article in conference proceedings
Minor, H.E. (2000). Spillways for high velocities. In *Proceedings of International Workshop on Hydraulics of Stepped Spillways*, V.E. Zurich, H.E. Minor, and W.H. Hager, ed. (Rotterdam, the Netherlands), pp. 3–10.
- Dissertation
Tang, H.J. (2002). Ecological studies on phytoplankton of the shallow, eutrophic Lake Donghu. Dissertation for Doctoral Degree. (Wuhan: Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences).
- Technical report
Phillips, N.A. (1979). The Nested Grid Model. NOAA Technical Report NWS22.
- Patent
Zhang, W.P. (2003). Experiment Apparatus of Diffraction Imaging. China Patent, 02290557.X.
- User manual
Wang, D.L., Zhu, J., and Li, Z.K. (1999). User Manual for QTKMapper Version 1.6

In the text, references should be written as in the following examples: (Zhang, 2003) or (Wang et al., 1999; Hu et al., 2006) or (Norman and Redfern, 1996) or (Hu et al., 2009a, b).

Figure legends

All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure must be defined, unless they are common abbreviations or have already been defined in the text. Experimental details should, where possible, be given in the Materials and methods section, and not repeated in the figure legends. Provide these separately from figures. For figures with multiple panels, the first sentence of the legend should be a brief overview of the entire figure.

Figures

Figure submission

- Supply all figures electronically.
- For vector graphics, the preferred format is EPS; MS Office files are also acceptable.

Color art

- Color art is free of charge for online publication.
- If the figures will be printed in black and white, do not refer to color in the captions.

Figure lettering

- Use Arial (sans serif fonts) to add lettering.
- Keep lettering consistently sized throughout your final-sized artwork, usually about 7 pt.

Figure numbering

- All figures are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
- Figures should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.
- Figure parts should be denoted by uppercase letters (A, B, C...).
- Supplementary figures in online supporting information (Electronic Supplementary Material) should be numbered separately (Figure S1, S2, S3...) and cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

Figure captions

- Each figure should have a concise caption describing accurately what the figure depicts. Include the captions in the text file of the manuscript, not in the figure file.
- Identify all elements found in the figure in the figure caption, and use boxes, circles, etc., as coordinate points in graphs.
- Identify previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference citation at the end of the figure caption.

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- All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.
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- Footnotes to tables should be indicated by superscript lower-case letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.

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