

Agronomy

for Sustainable Development

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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1. MAJOR GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

Key instructions are summarized in the following table:

| | RESEARCH ARTICLE | META-ANALYSIS | REVIEW ARTICLE |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Word limit | < 8000 words | | 16000 words |
| Formatting | Times 11 ; 1.5 spacing, lines numbered | | |
| Novelty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> should be clearly explained in the cover letter, the abstract, the end of the Results and Discussion section; the Conclusion section should be stated precisely and objectively, for example using “Here we show for the first time that ...”, or “This is the first...”. | | The interest of the review should be clearly explained in the cover letter and the abstract |
| Title | Short and informative, highlighting the novelty and the result of the study | Should end by “. A meta-analysis” | Should end by “. A review” |
| Abstract | < 300 words Should present: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Background/issues/hypothesis 2. Experimental 3. Results/novelty | | < 300 words Should present: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Background/issues 2. Major advances and interest of the review |
| Sections | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Materials and methods 3. Results and discussion 4. Conclusion | | Contents <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. First section (no IMRAD structure) X. Conclusion |
| Results and discussion | A combined Results and Discussion section should be preferred | | Not applicable |
| Figures and tables | < 8 . Figures should be preferred. | Not limited but total number should be justified | Not limited but total number should be justified |
| | Tables should preferably fit on one page | | |
| | The introduction should include a color photo, named “Figure 1”, highlighting the main topic of the article | | |
| Declarations | All manuscripts must contain the following sections under the heading 'Declarations', to be placed before 'References': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding (information that explains whether and by whom the research was supported) • Conflicts of interest/Competing interests (include appropriate disclosures) • Ethics approval (include appropriate approvals or waivers) • Consent to participate (include appropriate statements) • Consent for publication (include appropriate statements) • Availability of data and material (data transparency) • Code availability (software application or custom code) • Authors' contributions (include appropriate statements) | | |
| References | Must contain the DOI | | |
| Supplementary material | The need for supplementary material section must be justified in the cover letter. Data should be preferably deposited in a repository | | |
| Preprints | Authors should disclose details of preprint posting, including DOI and licensing terms, upon submission of the manuscript or at any other point during consideration at ASD. Once the preprint is published, it is the author's responsibility to ensure that the preprint record is updated with a publication reference, including the DOI and a URL link to the published version of the article on the journal website. | | |

2. TYPES OF ARTICLES

Agronomy for Sustainable Development publishes three types of papers: *Research articles*, *Review articles* and *Meta-analyses (systematic reviews)*. The findings should deal with both Agriculture and Sustainable Development: see [Aims and Scope](#) for specific topics.

3. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Agronomy for Sustainable Development only accepts **online submission**, at the following address:

<http://www.editorialmanager.com/asde>

Authors must verify that their manuscript complies with [Aims and Scope](#) of the journal.

They must fill in the mandatory fields in the online form, and carefully check that the authors' first and last names in the online form correspond to those indicated in the manuscript. The ORCID identifier is mandatory for the corresponding author. Authors should choose one or several **classification item(s)** corresponding to the main topic of their manuscript.

The manuscript must be accompanied by a **cover letter** containing:

- the article title
- the full first name (no initial) and last name of all the authors,
- a paragraph describing **why their findings are novel** (for research articles and meta-analyses) or **why a review on this subject is needed**,
- **a list of four suggested, international reviewers**. The suggested reviewers must have no conflict of interest with the authors; they should **not have co-authored previous publications with the present author(s)**. They must represent an international diversity. When suggesting reviewers, the Corresponding Author must provide an institutional email address for each suggested reviewer, or, if this is not possible to include other means of verifying the identity such as a link to a personal homepage, a link to the publication record or a researcher or author ID in the submission letter. Please note that the Journal may not use the suggestions, but suggestions are appreciated and may help facilitate the peer review process.
- Authors should disclose details of preprint posting, including DOI and licensing terms, upon submission of the manuscript or at any other point during consideration at ASD. Once the preprint is published, it is the author's responsibility to ensure that the preprint record is updated with a publication reference, including the DOI and a URL link to the published version of the article on the journal website.

4. EDITORIAL PROCESS

Upon submission, articles enter the preselection process. At that stage, the general quality of the manuscript and its **compliance with scope and author instructions** are evaluated by the Managing Editor and the Editors in chief; the non-compliance being a cause for rejection. The articles pre-selected are then assigned to an **Associate Editor** and at least **two external reviewers**, in a **single blind** process.

The Associate Editor submits his/her decision to the Managing Editor, who communicates a final decision to the authors. When revisions are requested, the authors are asked to answer point by point each reviewer comment. The revised manuscript returns to the **same Associate Editor** and is eventually evaluated again by the same or by alternative reviewers. Upon acceptance of the manuscript, the journal requests that the authors provide a **short post** on their article, that will be published in the journal blog (<http://ist.blogs.inra.fr/agronomy/>). The purpose of this post is to convert the main research information into easily accessible language in order to be **understandable by the largest possible audience**. This post must be accompanied by a relevant **photo in landscape format**.

At the production stage, it is the responsibility of the authors to carefully examine the article proofs. **No major corrections** such as change in authorship will be accepted at this stage.

No correction can be made after article online publication. If an error is identified after publication, an erratum should be required by the authors.

5. REQUIRED FORMAT FOR RESEARCH ARTICLES

General

Research articles should report the results of **original research**. The material should not have been previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Research articles should focus on **one major discovery** supported by 2-4 results.

Novelty

The novelty, or difference, of the major finding versus current knowledge **should be clearly explained** in:

- the cover letter to the Editor-in-Chief;
- the abstract;
- the end of the Results and Discussion section;
- the Conclusion section.

Novelty claims should be made in an affirmative way, using for instance **“Here we show for the first time that ...”**, or **“This is the first...”**.

Only articles showing notable added value will be sent for in-depth evaluation.

English

All manuscripts should be written in high-quality **American English**. Non-English native authors should seek appropriate help from English-writing professionals before submission. The journal may ask authors to provide a **certificate from an English language proofreading service**, ensuring correct grammar and typographical error corrections (i.e., punctuation, spelling, inconsistencies...) to help authors present a clear and scientific message.

Sections

The manuscript should contain the following items (in the same order):

- article title
- full first and last names of authors with an asterisk “*” highlighting the corresponding author; postal addresses; e-mail address of the corresponding author
- Abstract (less than 300 words)
- List of keywords (maximum 10)
- IMRAD elements:
 - **1. Introduction**
 - **2. Materials and methods** (including subsections - 2.1, 2.2...)
 - **3. Results and discussion** (including topical subsections - 3.1, 3.2...)

It is advisable to submit a combined Results and discussion section. However, if authors prefer to submit two distinct Results and Discussion sections, they should justify this choice in the cover letter.

- **4. Conclusion**
- Acknowledgments
- Declarations: (*see section 11 below*)
 - **Funding** (information that explains whether and by whom the research was supported)
 - **Conflicts of interest/Competing interests** (include appropriate disclosures)
 - **Ethics approval** (include appropriate approvals or waivers)
 - **Consent to participate** (include appropriate statements)
 - **Consent for publication** (include appropriate statements)
 - **Availability of data and material** (*see in section 13 below what is expected here*)
 - **Code availability** (software application or custom code)
 - **Authors' contributions** (include appropriate statements)

- References (*see section 8 below*)

Other sections such as annexes and appendices are not accepted.

General presentation

The text length of research articles is limited to **8000 words**, excluding figures, tables and references. All text should be written in a concise way, by **focusing on major points**, findings, breakthrough or discoveries, and their **broad significance**. All running text should be in Times 11 or Times New Roman 11, with **1.5 line spacing**. Figure and table captions must be self-explanatory and they should be written in Times 10 or Times New Roman 10. **Lines**, as well as **every page** of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc. **should be numbered**.

Title

The title of research articles should be concise and informative and focused on the main scientific discovery. Authors are advised to look at examples in recent issues of the journal.

Abstract

The research articles abstract of less than 300 words should report concisely on the main scientific breakthrough. The abstract should not contain **abbreviations** nor **literature references**. The abstract is structured in three parts: the first part summarizes the Introduction section, it thus gives the background, the overall and specific issues, and the hypothesis (about 3-4 sentences). The second part abstracts the Experimental section, it thus gives a brief overview of the experiments or surveys (about 2-3 sentences). The third part abstracts the Results and discussion section, it thus gives: the 1-2 major results using precise trends and data, then the interpretation of those results, then the claimed novelty of those results versus current knowledge, then the basic or applied benefits of those results for sustainable agriculture. Novelty claims should be made in an **affirmative way**, using for instance “Here we show that ...”, “Here we demonstrate that ...” or “This is the first...”

Abbreviations

In general **abbreviations should be avoided** in the main text because they decrease article readability and impact. Only 1-2 common abbreviations such as DNA or LED are accepted in the main text. When their use is essential, abbreviations must be explained **when they first appear in the text**. Abbreviations in figures, tables and equations are accepted only if there is not enough space to write full words. Here, abbreviations **should be explained** in figure and table captions, or after equations.

Footnotes

Footnotes in the running text and in tables are **not accepted**. Table footnotes should be included in the table caption.

Units

Data description in the text, tables and figures should follow the **International System of Units**, as it is the most widely used [system of measurement](#). The choice of another system of units may be tolerated if it is explained and argued clearly.

6. REQUIRED FORMAT FOR REVIEW ARTICLES

For review articles please follow the **general instructions for research articles**, with the following exceptions:

- The text length of review articles is limited to **16000 words**, excluding figures, tables and references.
- The title should end by “. A review”
- The abstract of less than 300 words **should contain two parts**: the first part should give general and global issues, then specific and scientific issues in about 5-6 sentences. The second part should start by, e.g., “Here we review...”, and explain the interest of the review. Then the major advances demonstrated in the article by literature analysis should be presented: “The major points are the following: 1)... 2)...”. The reader should clearly understand the added value of those advances.
- The first section of the article should be “1. Introduction”, and the last section “X. Conclusion”, and sections should have topics titles. The structure should not be of IMRaD type (Intro Methods Results and Discussion). All sections and sub-sections **should be numbered**. At the end of each section, authors are advised to propose a concise view of the novelty described and/or the main research hypotheses addressed by the reviewed knowledge.
- A **Contents** should be inserted after the list of keywords, before the introduction section.

7. REQUIRED FORMAT FOR META-ANALYSES

For meta-analyses, please follow the general instructions for research articles, with the following exceptions:

- The title should end by “. A meta-analysis”
- An additional section “**References of the meta-analysis**” should be inserted after the “References” section

Meta-analyses should meet the following criteria¹:

¹ Philibert A, Loyce C, Makowski D.(2012) Assessment of the quality of meta-analysis in agronomy. Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, 148, 72-82. DOI: 10.1016/j.agee.2011.12.003.

- The **procedure** used to select papers from scientific databases should be **explained**,
- Individual data should be **weighted** according to their level of precision when possible,
- **Site-year variability** of the results should be analyzed from an agronomic point of view, to identify relevant explanatory variables,
- Efforts should be made to check for the **publication bias** and **confounding effects**.

8. REFERENCES

Citation

Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Some examples:

- Negotiation research spans many disciplines (Thompson 1990).
- This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman (1996).
- This effect has been widely studied (Abbott 1991; Barakat et al. 1995; Kelso and Smith 1998; Medvec et al. 1993).

Reference list

The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list.

Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work. The DOI should be indicated when available.

• Journal article

Eden M, Gerke HH, Houot S (2017) Organic waste recycling in agriculture and related effects on soil water retention and plant available water: a review. *Agron Sustain Dev* 37 (2):21. doi:10.1007/s13593-017-0419-9

Ideally, the names of all authors should be provided, but the usage of “et al” in long author lists will also be accepted:

Lamichhane JR, Durr C, Schwanck AA et al. (2017) Integrated management of damping-off diseases. A review. *Agron Sustain Dev* 37 (2):25. doi:10.1007/s13593-017-0417-y

• Article by DOI

Coqueret V, Le Bot J, Larbat R et al. (2017). Nitrogen nutrition of tomato plant alters leafminer dietary intake dynamics. *J Insect Physiol*. doi:10.1016/j.jinsphys.2017.04.002

• Book

Mengel K, Kirkby EA (1987) Principles of plant nutrition. International Potash Institute, Bern

• Book chapter

García-Tejero I.F., Durán-Zuazo V.H., Muriel-Fernández J.L. et al. (2011) Water and Sustainable Agriculture. In: *Water and Sustainable Agriculture*. SpringerBriefs in Agriculture. Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 1-94

• Online document

Cartwright J (2007) Big stars have weather too. IOP Publishing PhysicsWeb. <http://physicsweb.org/articles/news/11/6/16/1>. Accessed 26 June 2007

• Dissertation

Alloush GA (1990) The mechanism of mobilization of iron from soil minerals in the rhizosphere of *Cicer arietinum* L. Dissertation, University of Leeds

Always use the standard abbreviation of a journal's name according to the ISSN List of Title Word Abbreviations, see <http://www.issn.org/services/online-services/access-to-the-ltwa/>

For authors using EndNote, an output style that supports the formatting of in-text citations and reference list is available at: <http://endnote.com/downloads/style/agronomy-sustainable-development>. For authors using Mendeley or Zotero, the style you can download [the CSL file](#) for this journal.

The authors should check very carefully that references cited in the text are in match with the reference list; and that all references in the list are really cited in the text. The accuracy of references should also be carefully checked.

9. ARTWORK (TABLES AND FIGURES)

Number of tables and figures

For research articles, the number of tables plus figures is limited to 8, including the introduction color figure. Figures should be preferred to tables. For review articles and meta-analyses, there is no limitation of tables/figures number.

Permissions

If you include tables or figures that have already been published elsewhere, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format. Please be aware that some publishers do not grant electronic rights for free and that Springer will not be able to refund any costs that may have occurred to receive these permissions. In such cases, material from other sources should be used. Please identify any previously published material by giving the original source in the form of a reference at the end of the table caption.

Placement and Size

Tables and figures should be uploaded as separated files at the submission stage. Their place in the manuscript should be clearly indicated by authors.

When preparing your figures, size figures to fit in the column width.

The figures should be 39 mm, 84 mm, 129 mm, or 174 mm wide and not higher than 234 mm.

Figures

- **Color figure in the introduction section**

For all the article types, the introduction must contain 1-2 color photos (named Figure 1). The photo(s) should reveal the main topic of the article to a wide audience.

- **Colors**

Color illustrations are accepted at no charge both for the electronic version and the printed version of the journal.

- **Format**

The titles of figure and axes should be bold.

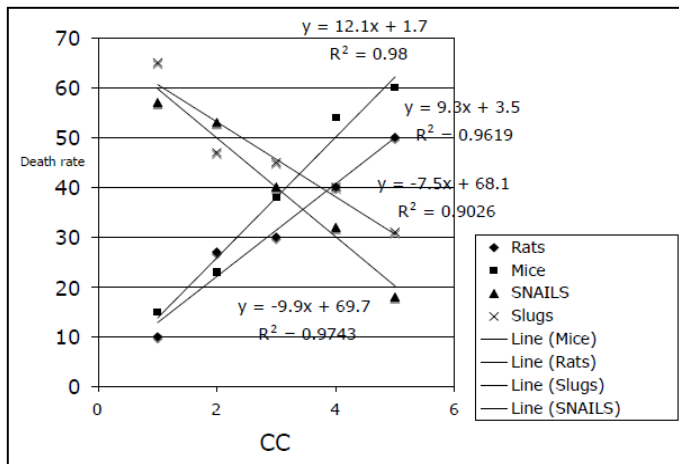
The **Y-axis title should be written horizontally** at the above-left of the graph, when possible. Preferably, a graph should contain a maximum of 3 curves.

Symbol legends are not accepted; the name of a curve should be written in the graph, beside the corresponding curve, using arrows if necessary.

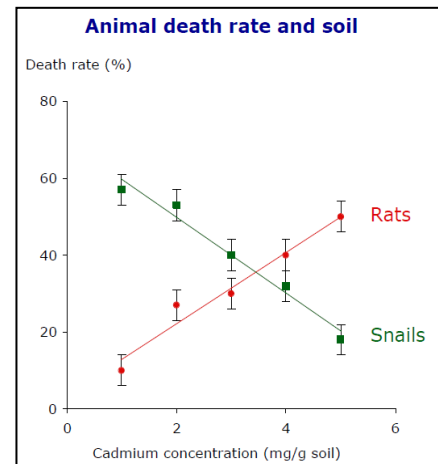
Regression equations should not appear on the graph, but rather at the end of the caption

A figure should not contain too many sub-items, in order to be readable. Sub-items should not have any frame.

WRONG



RIGHT



Authors

are encouraged to use contrasting colors (red, blue, green...) to increase the readability of the figures. Do not use faint lines and/or lettering and check that all lines and lettering within the figures are legible at final size.

Do not use background lines

All lines should be at least 1 pt wide

Do not repeat the curve names in the different sub-figures.

• Lettering

To add lettering, it is best to use Helvetica or Arial (sans serif fonts).

Keep lettering consistently sized throughout your final-sized artwork, usually about 2–3 mm (8–12 pt).

Variance of type size within an illustration should be minimal, e.g., do not use 8-pt type on an axis and 20-pt type for the axis label.

Avoid effects such as shading, outline letters, etc.

Do not include titles or captions within your illustrations.

• 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 perfectly aligned, have the same size and denoted by lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.).

The placement of letters in the figure parts should be consistent throughout the paper (i.e. preferably top left)..

• Captions

A “scheme” or “photo” should be named “figure”. Figure captions should be self-explanatory and must contain a brief description of the main scientific point of the figure, using 1–2 well thought sentences: a figure should be almost understandable without reading the main body text of the article. The characters should be in Times or Times New Roman with an appropriate size to be readable after 50% reduction.

Do not refer to colors in the captions in case readers print in black and white

• Resolution and quality

Figures should be of high quality.

Scanned line drawings and line drawings in bitmap format should have a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi.

Combination artwork should have a minimum resolution of 600 dpi

Halftones should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi

• Accessibility

In order to give people of all abilities and disabilities access to the content of your figures, please make sure that

- All figures have descriptive captions (blind users could then use a text-to-speech software or a text-to-Braille hardware)
- Patterns are used instead of or in addition to colors for conveying information (color-blind users would then be able to distinguish the visual elements)
- Any figure lettering has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1

Tables

Articles are typeset in a liquid lay-out so that readers can open and read them on all devices such as tablets, smart phones, e-readers etc. Therefore, the tables have to follow several rules for their layout:

- Tables should have a reasonable size. **Tables longer than 1 page are not recommended.**
- Several simple tables should be preferred to a single complex table with many variables
- Horizontal and vertical lines in tables cannot be reproduced
- **Column headers are left flushed and will not be centered over two columns**
- **Column headers should have a single level**
- **Numbers in columns are left flushed** (not on the decimal dot or plus/minus sign)

WRONG

| | | Number of varieties | Number of study sites | Study duration (years) | Experimental design | | Weed species studied in field | Allelopathic potential | | Number of competitive traits measured | Competitive traits | | | Approach used to dissociate allelopathy and competition | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | Number of replicates | Plot size (m ²) | | Complementary experiment in controlled conditions | Quantification of allelochemicals | | Competitive traits measured in weed-free plots | Early competitive traits studied | Ground cover studied | Varieties with similar competitive traits | Use of multiple regression models |
| Spring wheat | Kashif et al. 2016 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 13 | <i>Phalaris minor</i> | agar-based bioassay ¹ | phenolic compounds | 2 | x | | x | x | |
| | Bertholdsson 2005 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 25 | spontaneous | agar-based bioassay ¹ | | 3 | | x | | | x |
| | Bertholdsson 2010 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 23 | mixture of grasses and clover ² | agar-based bioassay ¹ | | 2 | | x | | | |
| | Reiss et al. 2018a | 10 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | <i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Sinapis alba</i> | | group of benzoxazinoids | 3 | | | x | | x |
| Winter wheat | Bertholdsson 2011 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 19 | <i>Apera spica-venti</i> | agar-based bioassay ¹ | | 4 | | x | x | | x |
| | Reiss et al. 2018b | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | spontaneous | | group of benzoxazinoids | 3 | | | x | | x |
| | Worthington et al. 2015 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | <i>Lolium multiflorum</i> | agar-based bioassay ¹ | | 5 | x | x | x | | |
| Spring barley | Bertholdsson 2005 | 20/12 ³ | 1 | 4 | 3 | 25 | spontaneous | agar-based bioassay ¹ | | 3 | | x | | | x |
| Rye | Reiss et al. 2018b | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | spontaneous | | group of benzoxazinoids | 3 | | | x | | x |
| Sorghum | Al-Bedairy et al. 2013 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 30 | spontaneous | staircase device ¹ | | 3 | | | x | x | |
| Spring triticale | Reiss et al. 2018a | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | <i>Chenopodium album</i> , <i>Avena fatua</i> , <i>Sinapis alba</i> | | group of benzoxazinoids | 3 | | | x | | x |
| Winter triticale | Reiss et al. 2018b | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 10 | spontaneous | | group of benzoxazinoids | 3 | | | x | | x |

RIGHT

| APSIM module | Parameter name | Process | Value | Reference |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sugar | <i>transp_eff_ef</i> | Transpiration efficiency | 0.0087 | Dias et al. (2019) |
| Sugar | <i>oxdef_photo_rtfr</i> | Response to oxygen deficit | 0.5, 1.0 | Biggs et al. (2021) |
| Sugar | <i>oxdef_photo</i> | | 1.0, 0.2 | Biggs et al. (2021) |
| Sugar | <i>sen_detach_frac</i> | Detachment of senesced leaves | 0.004 | Thorburn et al. (2005) |
| SurfaceOrganicMatter | <i>crit_residue_wt</i> | Decomposition of sugarcane residue ('trash') | 10,000 | Thorburn et al. (2001) |
| SurfaceOrganicMatter | <i>opt_temp</i> | | 30 | Thorburn et al. (2001) |
| SurfaceOrganicMatter | <i>pot_decomp_sugar</i> | | 0.06 | Thorburn et al. (2001) |
| Soil | <i>nitrification_pot</i> | Nitrification rate constants and | 12 | Meier et al. (2006) |
| Soil | <i>nh4_at_half_pot</i> | fraction lost as N ₂ O | 30 | Meier et al. (2006) |
| Soil | <i>nit_n2o_frac</i> | | 0.002 | Thorburn et al. (2010) |
| Soil | <i>dnit_rate_coeff</i> | Denitrification rate and gas | 0.001379 | Thorburn et al. (2010) |
| Soil | <i>dnit_kl</i> | diffusivity at field capacity affecting N ₂ /N ₂ O ratio | 25.1 (clay), 10.05 (loam) | Thorburn et al. (2010) |

All tables are to be numbered using Arabic numerals.

Tables should always be cited in text in consecutive numerical order.

For each table, please supply a table caption (title) explaining the components of the table.

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

10. ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The need for supplementary material section must be justified in the cover letter.

Data should be rather deposited in repositories than submitted as supplementary materials.

Submission

- Supply all supplementary material in standard file formats.
- Please include in each file the following information: article title, journal name, author names; affiliation and e-mail address of the corresponding author.
- To accommodate user downloads, please keep in mind that larger-sized files may require very long download times and that some users may experience other problems during downloading.

Collecting Multiple Files

It is possible to collect multiple files in a .zip or .gz file.

Captions

For each supplementary material, please supply a concise caption describing the content of the file.

Processing of supplementary files

Electronic supplementary material will be published as received from the author without any conversion, editing, or reformatting.

Accessibility

In order to give people of all abilities and disabilities access to the content of your supplementary files, please make sure that

- The manuscript contains a descriptive caption for each supplementary material
- Video files do not contain anything that flashes more than three times per second (so that users prone to seizures caused by such effects are not put at risk)

11. DECLARATIONS

All authors are requested to include information regarding sources of funding, financial or non-financial interests, study-specific approval by the appropriate ethics committee for research involving humans and/or animals, informed consent if the research involved human participants, and a statement on welfare of animals if the research involved animals (as appropriate).

If any of the sections are not relevant to your manuscript, please include the heading and write 'Not applicable' for that section.

The Editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the guidelines. The author will be held responsible for false statements or failure to fulfill the guidelines.

11.1. Funding and conflicts of interest

Authors are requested to disclose interests that are directly or indirectly related to the work submitted for publication. Interests within the last 3 years of beginning the work (conducting the research and preparing the work for submission) should be reported. Interests outside the 3-year time frame must be disclosed if they could reasonably be perceived as influencing the submitted work. Disclosure of interests provides a complete and transparent process and helps readers form their own judgments of potential bias. This is not meant to imply that a

financial relationship with an organization that sponsored the research or compensation received for consultancy work is inappropriate.

Interests that should be considered and disclosed but are not limited to the following:

Funding: Research grants from funding agencies (please give the research funder and the grant number) and/or research support (including salaries, equipment, supplies, reimbursement for attending symposia, and other expenses) by organizations that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript.

Employment: Recent (while engaged in the research project), present or anticipated employment by any organization that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript. This includes multiple affiliations (if applicable).

Financial interests: Stocks or shares in companies (including holdings of spouse and/or children) that may gain or lose financially through publication of this manuscript; consultation fees or other forms of remuneration from organizations that may gain or lose financially; patents or patent applications whose value may be affected by publication of this manuscript.

It is difficult to specify a threshold at which a financial interest becomes significant, any such figure is necessarily arbitrary, so one possible practical guideline is the following: "Any undeclared financial interest that could embarrass the author were it to become publicly known after the work was published."

Non-financial interests: In addition, authors are requested to disclose interests that go beyond financial interests that could impart bias on the work submitted for publication such as professional interests, personal relationships or personal beliefs (amongst others). Examples include, but are not limited to: position on editorial board, advisory board or board of directors or other type of management relationships; writing and/or consulting for educational purposes; expert witness; mentoring relations; and so forth.

Primary research articles require a disclosure statement. Review articles present an expert synthesis of evidence and may be treated as an authoritative work on a subject. Review articles therefore require a disclosure statement.

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