

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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- the manuscript has not been previously published;
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- it has not been previously rejected by *Molecular Biology*;
- its publication has been approved by all coauthors;
- its publication has been approved by the responsible authorities—tacitly or explicitly—at the institute where the work was carried out.

JOURNAL-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

GENERAL

Molecular Biology publishes experimental and theoretical studies and reviews concerning the structure, function, synthesis, and degradation of biological macromolecules in cell and model systems; their interactions with each other and with low-molecular-weight ligands; and molecular organization of the cell and molecular mechanisms regulating vital processes.

Conceptual papers, mini-reviews are also published. Special issues of the journal are devoted to certain topical problems in molecular biology.

Publications are grouped under the following sections:

- REVIEWS
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- CELL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY
- STRUCTURAL–FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF BIOPOLYMERS AND THEIR COMPLEXES
- BIOINFORMATICS
- PROTEOMICS

The authors may indicate the preferable section when submitting their manuscript for publication. If not indicated, the section is identified by the editorial board.

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A separate file (or electronic version of the manuscript) should contain necessary information about the authors (full name, address, ZIP code, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail address), with the corresponding author indicated separately.

No payment is collected from the authors for publication. The exception is complex color figures published at the expense of the authors in the paper version of the journal. In the electronic version, the publication of color figures is free.

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All technological processes for preparing a manuscript for printing begin 4 months before the publication of the journal.

FORMAT

The manuscript (electronic version) should be formatted as follows.

The text is printed with 1.5 line spacing and should take approximately 29–34 lines per page: font Times New Roman, point size 12, the left margin should be 30 mm, and the top and bottom margins 20 mm.

UDC (Universal Decimal Classification code) (*italic*, point size 9).

Title of paper (**boldface**). The title should not be too long, too short, or insufficiently informative; it should reflect the main findings rather than the field and subject of study. The words study, comparison, analysis, etc., should be avoided.

The list of authors (by initials and surname, **boldface**). The corresponding author should be indicated with an asterisk and his/her e-mail address should be provided.

The list of affiliations and addresses (*italic*, **boldface**), e.g., *Institute of Cytology, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 194064 Russia*. If there is more than one affiliation and address, use superscript lowercase letters to indicate the institute with which each author is affiliated.

The Abstract (**boldface**, point size 12) is an important part of a manuscript, which represents the study in various databases. No abstract is necessary for a short communication. The abstract should clearly describe the problem; object(s); method(s) and strategy; results, with emphasis of their novelty compared with known data; and conclusions (a new hypothesis, rejection of a known hypothesis, possible applications, or emerging problems). The abstract should be neither too short nor too long (20 lines on average). The size depends on the novelty of the findings rather than on the manuscript size. Abbreviations should not be used, even if they appear in the text body.

Keywords (**boldface**) must reflect the research field (molecules, primary structure, 3D structure in solution, etc.), method(s), object(s) (prokaryotes, eukaryotes, species/genus, cells, etc.), and specifics of the study.

The text body typically has the following sections (in theoretical papers and reviews, sections are named at the author's discretion):

INTRODUCTION

EXPERIMENTAL

This section should provide information on objects, methods, procedures, and conditions of experiments sufficient for their reproduction (methods described in previous publications should not be described again). The quality and manufacturers of the most important reagents must be indicated.

RESULTS

Depending on its size, the section should be divided into two to four subsections. The subsection headings should be informative rather than descriptive. Figures and tables should have headings. Each illustration should be referred to in the text at least once. The positions of figures and tables in the text should be indicated in the left margin. The same material should not be duplicated in both tables and figures. A figure is always preferable to a table, although tables are indispensable in some cases. Schemes should be used to clarify a procedure or a result and its interpretation.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study are explained and discussed in the context of previously published data. The positions of figures and tables in the text are indicated in the left margin.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The names of supporting foundations (with grant numbers in parentheses) are indicated in this section.

This section provides information on any assistance in carrying out work and preparing an article; it also reports collective use centers.

FUNDING

The section indicates the names of all funds and organizations that financed the work, with grant numbers in parentheses. Abbreviations of donor names should be avoided.

COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS

If studies were conducted on animals, then this section indicates that all applicable international, national, and/or institutional principles for the care and use of animals have been observed.

If no such experiments were carried out, it is necessary to indicate that the article contains no research in which animals were used.

If the experiments involved biological materials obtained from people, patient cohorts, etc., then two points need to be inserted in this section:

- All procedures involving people comply with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national committee for research ethics and the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its subsequent changes or comparable ethical standards.
- Informed voluntary consent was obtained from each of the participants.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Information on conflicts of interest is provided here.

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This section, for example, may contain nonstandard links (materials that for some reason have not been published but may be provided by the authors upon request); additional links to author profiles (Orchid ID); information on previously unpublished reports related to the article delivered at conferences, seminars; etc.

The publisher reserves the right to include publishing information in this section, for example, to disagree with the conclusions of the work or indifference to the data obtained, indicate the compilers responsible for including the article in the issue if they are not indicated in some other way, and any other information relevant to this article or journal.

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This section should be on a separate page and contain the numbered list of references in the same order as they appear in the text (references in the text are cited as numbers in square brackets). The citation of different papers under the same number or of the same paper under different numbers and references to unpublished studies is not allowed.

The format of references in the list should be as follows (please pay attention to punctuation and spacing):

REFERENCES

Journals:

1. Studitsky V.M. 2000. Chromatin transcription. *Mol. Biol. (Mosk.)*. **35**, 235–247.
2. Hanahan D. Weinberg R.A. 2000. The hallmarks of cancer. *Cell*. **100**, 57–70.

Collected works:

Orlean P. 1997. Biogenesis of yeast cell wall and surface components. In: *The Molecular and Cellular Biology of the Yeast Saccharomyces. Cell Cycle and Cell Biology*. Vol. 3. Eds Pringle J.R., Broach J.R., Jones E.W. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Lab. Press, pp. 229–362.

Meeting papers:

Zhirnov O.P., Konakova T.E., Krichevets S.G., Iordansky S.N., Klenk H.D. 2000. *Abstr. 11th Int. Conf. Negative Strand Viruses*, Quebec, Canada, p. 91.

Books:

Sambrook J., Fritsch E.E., Maniatis T. 1989. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*. 2nd ed. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Lab. Press.

FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

In all materials, including the text, tables, figures, and figure captions:

only “x” should be used as the multiplication sign: 5×10^3 mol/L;

the symbol “·” is used in scalar products, chemical formulas ($\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$), and noncovalent complexes (DNA, RNA, etc.);

numerical material should be presented as tables; notation such as like ~ (tilde), ° (degree), and v (caret) should be used only when absolutely necessary.

Latin names of species and genera are written in italics, whereas the names of higher taxa and names of phages and viruses are in roman type. The names of genes are written in lowercase italics (*rec A*), whereas the names of proteins are in roman type (RecA) (except for designations used in yeast genetics).

The symbols of nucleotides (A, C, G, U), amino acid residues (Ala, Arg, Asn, etc.), and phosphates (ATP, ADP) are written in roman type.

The numbers of nucleotides and amino acid residues are written without hyphens (U25, Ala32). As a rule, long protein and nucleic acid sequences are not written in full, only their accession numbers (e.g., in the EMBL Data Bank) are given. When short sequences (no longer than 400 amino acid residues or base pairs) are analyzed and actively discussed in the text, they can be written in full.

Molecular weight is expressed in daltons (Da, kDa, MDa).

The use of biochemical and chemical terms, as well as the names of enzymes, should comply with the international rules of the *IUPAC-IUB Committee on Biochemical Nomenclature*. For reference, see <http://www.chem.qmw.ac.uk/iubmb> and *Enzyme Nomenclature*, San Diego: Academic Press, 1992. Additional information is published in *Eur. J. Biochem.*, 1994, vol. 223, pp. 1–5; 1995, vol. 232, pp. 1–6; 1996, vol. 237, pp. 1–5; 1997, vol. 250, pp. 1–6; 1999, vol. 264, pp. 610–650.

Since a text abounding in abbreviations is difficult to understand, the use of unconventional abbreviations should be reduced to a minimum. Upon introduction of an abbreviation, the corresponding term should first be spelled out, e.g., electrophoretic mobility shift assay (EMSA).

An electronic version of the manuscript should be submitted in a standard word processing program (preferably Microsoft Word for Windows 7.0 or later). The text should be without automatic hyphenation or justification, with italic and boldface used as noted above.

The text of the paper, abstract, list of references, tables, and figures should be contained in one file. Figures and diagrams (black and white), each in an individual file (resolution 600 dpi or higher), can be in TIFF, JPEG, or EPS format; their sizes should be sufficient for direct reproduction in the journal. **Color figures are published at the expense of authors.** The texts of long nucleotide or amino acid sequences should also be presented as individual text files.

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After review, the manuscript is given to the editorial board member responsible for the corresponding section, who makes an ultimate decision as to the possibility of its publication.

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