

TROPICAL ECOLOGY

Instructions to Authors for Manuscript Preparation

(REVISED 2011)

Authors are urged to study these instructions carefully and to comply with them. Manuscripts not conforming to the style of Tropical Ecology may not be processed.

Tropical Ecology is the official journal of the International Society for Tropical Ecology (ISTE) and is open to persons of all nations. Membership of ISTE is not a prerequisite for publishing in *Tropical Ecology*, however, authors are encouraged to enroll as members of the Society and to recommend the journal to their libraries.

Scope. *Research* and *review* papers in all fields of ecology related to the tropics and subtropics are considered for publication. Areas of current interest include: Ecology of vegetation and ecosystems; soil ecology; stress ecology; conservation and restoration ecology; evolutionary ecology; wildlife ecology; plant-animal interactions; ecology of global change and sustainable ecosystems; biological diversity and ecosystem function; human ecology. Papers on new ecological concepts, methodology and reviews on contemporary themes, not necessarily confined to the tropics, may also be considered.

Tropical Ecology will also publish *Short Communications* containing technical comments, new ideas/concepts, or present a complete study that is more limited in scope than is found in full-length papers.

There is no page charge. Papers are generally limited to 15 printed pages. *Short Communications* should not exceed 2000 words with a maximum of four small display (Figure/Table) items and 25-30 references. Three pages of double space typescript equal approximately one printed page of the journal.

Refereeing. All manuscripts are peer reviewed. *Authors must provide names of 3 - 4 potential referees with complete postal and email addresses as well as their area of expertise.* However, the editors are not obligated to use any of the referees provided by the authors.

Language. Manuscripts should be written in English. British spellings are preferred, but it is more important to have uniformity throughout the text. Special attention should be paid to diacritical marks and spellings of words from other languages, in the text as well as in References.

Manuscript Format. The manuscript must be typed using Times New Roman size 12 font, in *double space* throughout including *abstract, text, references, legends to figures* and *tables*.

The manuscript should be arranged in the following sequence: Title-page, Abstract, Text, Acknowledgement(s), References, Legend to Figure(s), Table(s), Figure(s).

Title Page. The title should concisely identify the contents and the by-line should comprise name(s) of the author(s) and complete address of the institution where the work was carried out. Title of the paper should be in bold letters, name(s) of author(s) in capital letters, and addresses in italics. If there are more than one author, the author to whom further correspondence is to be made should be indicated by an asterisk and the email address of the corresponding author must be given as a footnote. Change of address of author(s) should also be given as a footnote on this page.

A running headline of not more than 40 letters including spaces should be indicated on the title page.

Abstract. Following the title page, a self-contained abstract *not exceeding 150 words* and typed on a *separate* page should be placed in all mss including *Short Communications*. The first sentence of the abstract should indicate the objectives of the study. Subsequent sentences should indicate the location of the study, methods, and summarize major findings. The last sentence should articulate the major conclusion(s).

Key Words. From 6 to 10 key words, arranged alphabetically, should be listed and placed after the abstract.

Text. The text should begin on a fresh page and may be divided into sections, such as Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. Not more than three levels of *headings* should ordinarily be used in the text. The first-order heading (e.g. Introduction, Results, etc.) should be typed first-letter-cap-rest-lower-case and

centered; both second- and third-order headings should be typed first-letter-cap-rest-lower-case (e.g. *Effects of the site variables*), but the former centred and the latter placed on the extreme left. The first-order headings should be in bold letters, while the second- and the third-order headings shall be italicized. A *Short Communication* shall not have subsection headings except for Acknowledgement(s) and References.

Indicate the authority for all Latin names only once, when the name is first mentioned in the text, tables or figures. Alternatively, provide a general reference to a standard source of nomenclature, such as a well known regional Flora, at an appropriate place. Except Latin names, no other words should be italicized in the text. In the text, the references should be cited using a name and year system. Authors are encouraged to cite at least 1-2 papers published in *Tropical Ecology*. If more than one paper is cited in a single year by the same author, this should be indicated by a suffix, a, b, etc. to the year, both in the text and the list of references. Examples: McNaughton (1976); Singh (1986a, b); Pierce & Peak (1984); or (Knight 1965, 1970; McNaughton 1976; Pierce & Peak 1984). *Note that within the parenthesis the names of authors are arranged alphabetically.*

In case there are more than two authors of a paper use *et al.* after the first name in the text, e.g. Pascal *et al.* (1988); however, if more than one paper of the same first author but with different second or third author are cited for the same year, all the names should be given e.g. (Singh, Pandey & Tiwari 1984; Singh, Rawat & Chaturvedi 1984; Singh, Rawat & Sharma 1984).

A reference to an unpublished work may be cited in the text as 'In press' if the paper has been accepted by a journal. In such cases the name of the journal should be included in the reference list. Reference to a paper not yet accepted by a journal can be cited in the text as 'unpublished' and omitted from the reference list.

Acknowledgement(s) (if any) should be included at the end of the text.

References. List all references cited in the text in alphabetical order, giving the *name of the journal in full*. List the names of all authors in a reference. For references in languages other than English, the title should be given in the original language, followed by a translation into English in square brackets. The style and the portions of references to be *italicized* are exemplified below.

Papers in Journals and other periodicals

Hanely, T.A. & K.A. Hanley. 1982. Food resources partitioning by sympatric ungulates on Great Basin rangeland. *Journal of Range Management* **35**: 152-158.

Ovington, J.D. 1962. Quantitative ecology and the woodland ecosystem concept. *Advances in Ecological Research* **1**: 103- 192.

Singh, R.S., S.C. Srivastava, A.S. Raghubanshi, J.S. Singh & S.P. Singh. 1991. Microbial C, N and P in dry tropical savanna: Effects of burning and grazing. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **28**: 869-878.

Papers in Edited Books, Symposia Proceedings, etc.

Cole, D.W. & M. Rapp. 1981. Elemental cycling in forest ecosystems. pp. 341-409. In: D.E. Reichle (ed.) *Dynamic Properties of Forest Ecosystems*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Kobriger, G.D. 1980. Food availability, nutrition and body weights of gray partridge in North Dakota. pp. 70-86. In: S.R. Peterson & L. Nelson Jr. (eds.) *Proceedings of Perdix II Gray Partridge Workshop*. University of Idaho, U.S.A.

Books

Lieth, H. & R.H. Whittaker (eds.). 1976. *Primary Productivity of the Biosphere*. Springer-Verlag, Berlin.

Odum, E.P. 1971. *Fundamentals of Ecology*. 3rd edn. W.B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia.

Reports, Dissertations, etc.

Sollins, P., D.E. Reichle & J.S. Olson. 1973. *Organic Matter Budget and Model for a Southern Appalachian Liriodendron Forest*. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, U.S.A.

Srivastava, S.K. 1985. *Seasonal Dry Matter Dynamics and Nutrient Relations of Fine Roots in Teak Plantations in a Dry Tropical Region*. Ph.D. Thesis. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India.

Tables. The best guide for laying out tables and figures are articles in a recent issue of *Tropical Ecology* (available at www.tropecol.com). Each table should be typed on a separate sheet and provided with a short caption. Tables should be numbered in Arabic numerals and cited consecutively in the text. The data should not be duplicated in tables and figures.

Very large tables should be avoided. Upright (portrait) tables are preferred, fitting within one column or page. Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. In tables (and in the text) only significant digits should be shown in the numerical data. When preparing tables, adopt the 'Tables' set-up in MS Word, using one cell for each datum cluster (e.g. 12.2 ± 1.65) and avoid the use

of the 'return' key. Please do not use MS Excel for submitting tables.

Figures. All diagrams, graphs and photographs should be referred to as figures, and should be numbered in Arabic and cited consecutively in the text. All graphics should be in black-and-white. Letters, ordinates, abscissae and other scale markings must be large/bold enough to stand reduction of up to 50%. Histogram shading should be simple and clearly reproducible (avoid solid fills.) The figures should be devoid of external borders. The labels on the Y and X axes must be concise and include units. Preferably upon reduction the dimensions of figures should conform to one column space (22 x 8.5 cm). *Larger figures shall be reduced within 8.5 to 15 cm on the horizontal axis.* We prefer figures in TIFF, or high quality JPEG format. The following resolutions are optimal: line figures - 600-1200 dpi; photographs - 300 dpi. Colour artwork should be saved as CMYK, not RGB. Font-related problems can be avoided by using standard fonts such as Century Schoolbook, Courier or Helvetica.

Figure Legend. Figure captions should be placed *not* on the actual figures, but in the legend typed on a separate sheet and placed at the end of the text.

Photographs. Only essential photographs with good contrast should be submitted. When more than one photograph is submitted, they should be grouped on a plate. Photographs should be cited as figures in the text.

For printing of photographs/images in colour, there will be a charge payable by the author(s) to the press.

Proofs. Author(s) will receive proofs for correction (*not revision*), which should be returned to the Chief Editor by *airmail, by courier or by email within two days of its receipt*. Alterations to the text and illustrations are unacceptable at the proof stage; authors can be charged for changes in their manuscript.

Offprints. Any number of reprints (in multiples of 25) can be purchased, if ordered, when the proofs are returned.

Common units, symbols and abbreviations

Use the Système International d'Unités (SI): metre (for length), kilogram (mass), second (time),

ampere (current), kelvin (temperature), candela (luminous intensity) and mole (amount of substance); and two supplementary units: radian (plane angle) and steradian (solid angle).

All data must be given in metric system, using SI units where possible. Use expressions like: kg ha⁻¹, cm² g⁻¹, g m⁻², g C m⁻², kg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹, g g⁻¹ day⁻¹, kJ ha⁻¹. Recommended prefixes for use with SI units are:

Prefix	Name	Abbreviation	Length	Weight	Time
10 ⁻⁹	nano	n	nm	ng	ns
10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ	μm	μg	μs
10 ⁻³	milli	m	mm	mg	ms
10 ⁻²	centi	c	cm		
10 ⁻¹	deci	d	dm		
			m	g	s
10 ³	kilo	k	km	kg	
10 ⁶	mega	M		Mg	
10 ⁹	giga	G		Gg	

Derived SI unit for energy is Joule (abbreviated J), which should be used instead of calorie (1 cal=4.186 J).

Volume is generally reported in litre (l) and millilitre (ml).

Among acceptable non-SI unit measures are: degree Celsius (temperature), hour, day, year (time); hectare (area); tonne (weight); degree, minute and second (angle).

Abbreviations do not take a plural form and should not be followed by a full stop; e.g. use 8 cm (not 8 cm. or 8 cms).

Following symbols and abbreviations are frequently used:

above sea level	asl
centimetre	cm
degree Celsius	°C
degree of freedom	d.f.
diameter at breast height	dbh
gram	g
girth (circumference)	
at breast height	gbh
hectare	ha
hour	h
Joule	J
kilogram	kg
litre (dm ³)	l
logarithm	log ₁₀
logarithm (base e)	ln or log _e
lux	lx
kilometre	km
metre	m
minute (time)	min
minute (angle)	'(e.g. 25')
not significant	N.S.

numbers of observations	n
parts per billion (10 ⁻⁹)	ppb
parts per million (10 ⁻⁶)	ppm
per cent	%
per thousand	‰
second (time)	s
second (angle)	(e.g. 25")
standard deviation	S.D.
standard error	S.E.
tonne (10 ³ kg)	t
watt	W

Some measures are not to be abbreviated, including day, month, year.

Manuscript Submission

The manuscript file should be in PC-compatible Microsoft Word file (.DOC) format. Please do *not* submit PDFs, desktop publishing files or LaTeX files. The text, tables, and figures should be included in a single Microsoft Word file; tables and figures should be placed at the end. Authors are advised not to compress the ms in a zip file. Manuscript, after it has been thoroughly checked by the corresponding author for conformity with the instructions as detailed above, should be submitted as email attachment to the Chief Editor (tropecol@gmail.com). The covering letter should certify that the ms has not been submitted elsewhere and should have the corresponding author's functional email ID and telephone number. Covering letter should also contain email IDs of all authors. All correspondence will be made with the corresponding author only through email. A manuscript tracking number will be assigned to each ms and the authors shall quote this number in all subsequent correspondence.

Manuscripts may also be submitted to any of the Associate Editors with a copy to the Chief Editor. The Associate Editors will be pleased to receive and consider mss in the following areas:

José A. Amador (jamador@uri.edu): Microbial ecology, applied soil ecology, biogeochemistry, ecosystem ecology, soil microbiology and water quality.

S. K. Barik (sarojkbarik@gmail.com): Forest and ecosystem ecology, community ecology, plant population ecology, applications of multivariate analyses in ecology, conservation biology, and ecological niche modelling.

Christopher D. Beatty (cbeatty@scu.edu): Animal ecology (specially insects) and evolution specially their behaviour, communication, competition and predation.

Donna Marie Bilkovic (donnab@vims.edu): Near-shore community ecology, estuarine and marsh ecology, habitat functions for nekton and benthic organisms, biodiversity, effects of land-use and shoreline change on estuarine communities and habitats.

Nancy M. Dammann

(nmdammann@post.harvard.edu): Conservation biology, Amazonia, fisheries, aquatic-terrestrial interface/floodplain ecology, resiliency theory, human ecology, borders/interfaces, and edge dynamics, and common property/community based management and conservation.

David W. Goodall (d.goodall@ecu.edu.au): Vegetation science, arid-land ecology, statistical treatment of ecological data.

Ankila J. Hiremath (hiremath@atree.org): Invasive species, fire ecology, nutrient use efficiency/nutrient cycling and ecological restoration.

Christopher A. Lepczyk (lepczyk@hawaii.edu): Animal ecology/wildlife ecology, landscape ecology, ornithology, and conservation biology/ planning.

N. Parthasarathy (parthapu@yahoo.com): Forest structure, forest biodiversity and regeneration.

G.S. Rawat (rawatg@wii.gov.in): Plant Ecology, wildlife ecology and habitat evaluation, biodiversity assessment.

Demel Teketay Fanta

(demelteketay.fanta@orc.ub.bw): Forest ecology including diversity, regeneration, restoration, conservation and livelihoods, ethnobotany and ethnoecology, impact of plantations on indigenous species, seed and seedling ecology.

The ms shall be reviewed by 2 to 3 experts, and on the basis of their comments and the Editor's own evaluation, the concerned Editor shall either reject the ms or return it to the corresponding author for revision. The Editor shall evaluate the revised ms and if it is found acceptable, shall ask for a final version. The final version of the ms shall contain 3 files, one for the text including title page and figure legends, the second for tables and the third for figures.

Submission of a ms to *Tropical Ecology* shall imply that the same has not been submitted elsewhere. It is the responsibility of the author(s) using copyrighted material to obtain permission before hand from the original copyright-holder(s).