

Guide for Authors

Acta Ecologica Sinica (International Journal) is a **bimonthly** journal sponsored by **Ecological Society of China**. In 2006, Elsevier started publishing the Journal on ScienceDirect, the online full text and bibliographic information resource.

Aims and Scope

Acta Ecologica Sinica (International Journal) publishes recent theories and novel experimental results in ecology, and facilitates academic exchange and discussions internationally. It is expected that the journal will promote the development of and foster research talents for ecological studies, so as to contribute to the knowledge innovation, sustainable development.

Published papers should bear the characteristics of combined ecological research frontiers, unveiling mechanisms of the interactions between life and environment, and promoting the development of ecological science.

Journal Coverage

This journal publishes papers on animal ecology, plant ecology, microbial ecology, agroecology, forestry ecology, grassland ecology, soil ecology, ocean and aquatic ecology, landscape ecology, chemical ecology, contaminant ecology, urban and human ecology. We particularly welcome reviews on recent developments in ecology, novel experimental studies and short communications on innovative research, new theories, methodologies, new techniques, book reviews, and research news and laboratory introductions.

Submission information

All manuscripts can be submitted to the editorial office of Acta Ecologica Sinica (International Journal) by one of the following methods:

1. by online submission at <http://www.ecologica.cn>
2. or at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/18722032>

Editorial Office of Acta Ecologica Sinica (International Journal)

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Ethics in Publishing: General Statement

The Editor(s) and Publisher of this Journal believe that there are fundamental principles underlying scholarly or professional publishing. While this may not amount to a formal 'code of conduct', these fundamental principles with respect to the authors' paper are that the paper should: i) be the authors' own original work, which has not been previously published elsewhere, ii) reflect the authors' own research and analysis and do so in a truthful and complete manner, iii) properly credit the meaningful contributions of co-authors and co-researchers, iv) not be submitted to more than one journal for consideration, and v) be appropriately placed in the context of prior and existing research. Of equal importance are ethical guidelines dealing with research methods and research funding, including issues dealing with informed consent, research subject privacy rights, conflicts of interest, and sources of funding. While it may not be possible to draft a 'code' that applies adequately to all instances and circumstances, we believe it useful to outline our expectations of authors and procedures that the Journal will employ in the event of questions concerning author conduct.

With respect to conflicts of interest, the Publisher now requires authors to declare any conflicts of interest that relate to papers accepted for publication in this Journal. A conflict of interest may exist when an author or the author's institution has a financial or other relationship with other people or organizations that may inappropriately influence the author's work. A conflict can be actual or potential and full disclosure to the Journal is the safest course. All submissions to the Journal must include disclosure of all relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest. The Journal may use such information as a basis for editorial decisions and may publish such disclosures if they are believed to be important to readers in judging the manuscript. A decision may be made by the Journal not to publish on the basis of the declared conflict.

Preparation of manuscripts

All manuscripts should include: **a title**, list of **authors** with full postal addresses, **e-mail** addresses and **affiliation**, **cover letter**, **resume** of corresponding author, **abstract**, **all sections** of the body of the manuscript, and **references**.

The title (no more than 20 words) should clearly and accurately indicate the contents of the article or communication and should be expressed in adequate scientific terms. No abbreviations should be used in the title.

The full addresses and affiliations of authors should be placed below the title. Please note that foreign surnames are followed by initials.

Resume of the first author should be given as follows: name, year and place of birth, nationality, academic degree, professional title and main research work the author specializes in. Contact information for the first author such as his or her phone number. Once the paper is accepted this information will be removed.

An Abstract is required for your paper. It should be concise and factual and state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separate from the article, so it must be able to stand alone.

The body of the manuscript is generally subdivided into the following sequence of the sections: Introduction (no listing of titles and generally no more than 300 words), Research Methods, Results, Discussions or Findings, and References.

Tables and figures must be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals and should be self explanatory. Tables must have a brief descriptive title and include footnotes if necessary. "Figure" should be spelled out instead of being written "Fig." Tables and figures should be included within the text, and should have figure captions. The contents of figures, tables, and word descriptions should not be duplicated.

Nomenclature and units. Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other quantities are mentioned, give their equivalent in SI.

References Responsibility for the accuracy of bibliographic citations lies entirely with the Authors.

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Only articles that have been published or are in press should be included in the references. Unpublished results and personal communications should not be cited, but can be referred to in a footnote.

Format of references:

For journals: names of the first 3 authors (surnames followed by initials), article title, full name of periodical, year, volume number, issue number (in brackets), and range of pages.

For books: names of authors (surnames followed by initials), title, In: ××× ed., book name, edition

(the first edition should be omitted), place of publication, publisher, year and range of pages.

Examples:

- [1] Wei X H, Zhou X F. A study on the stemflow of three types of natural secondary forest. *Acta Ecologica Sinica*, 1989, 9(4): 325-329.
- [2] Fairley R I, Alexander I J. Methods of calculating fine root production in forests. In: Fitter A. H. ed. *Ecological Interactions in Soil*. Oxford: The British Ecological Society. 1985
- [3] Ma K P. Measurement of biodiversity. In: Qian Y Q ed. *Principle and methods of biodiversity studies*. Beijing: Chinese Scientific & Technological Press. 1994. 141-165.
- [4] Blum A, Johnson J W, Ramser E L, *et al.* The effect of a drying top soil and a possible nonhydraulic root signal on wheat growth and yield. *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 1991, 42(243): 1225-1231.

Preparation of illustrations

Captions

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Line drawings

The lettering and symbols, as well as other details, should have proportionate dimensions, so as not to become illegible or unclear after possible reduction; in general, the figures should be designed for a reduction factor of two to three. The degree of reduction will be determined by the Publisher. Illustrations will not be enlarged. Consider the page format of the journal when designing the illustrations. Do not use any type of shading on computer-generated illustrations.

Photographs

Photographs should be of sufficiently high quality with respect to detail and contrast. Indicate the magnification by a bar on the photograph.

Maps

Permission for reproduction of a map must be provided.

Editorial Queries

Because *AES(International Journal)* is a relatively new publication, editorial office staff are keen to work closely with authors, to help them with the style and tone of their paper, and to answer any questions. Please feel free to contact the 3 managing editor:

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