

Sri Lankan Journal of Biology

Guidelines for Authors

SLJB considers for publication original research that has not been previously published (this generally includes posting the article on a preprint server) or not under consideration for publication elsewhere. However, SLJB accepts submissions that have previously been presented at conferences; or have previously appeared in other “non-journal” formats (for example: blogs or posters). In addition to full papers, short communications and invited reviews are accepted for publication.

Scope: Biological research findings of a wide array of sub disciplines including (but not limited to); Anthropology, Agriculture, Animal Behavior, Bioinformatics, Biochemistry, Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Cell Biology, Conservation Genetics, Developmental Biology, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Entomology, Evolution, Ethnomedicine, Freshwater Biology, Genetics and Genomics, Mathematical Modeling of Biological Systems, Marine Biology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Nanobiology, Natural Products, Physiology, Plant Sciences, Quantum Biology, Taxonomy, Toxicology, Wildlife, Zoology.

Number of issues per year: Two (in January and June)

Publication charges: There are no submission and publication fees

Online access for the public: Free of charge

Research articles of not more than 8000 words, short communications of not more than 2500 words and review articles of not more than 8000 words are accepted.

Authors should clearly highlight the key findings of the paper and explain their significance to the field in their cover letter.

Journal accepts manuscripts written only in English either American or British; however, a mixture of both should be avoided.

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Authors should declare that the manuscript has been seen and approved by all authors and the authorities responsible where the work was carried out. All submissions should contain the author declaration form (which can be downloaded from <http://www.iobsl.org/sljb-volume-1/paper-submission>). If applicable, authors should state in the methods section, that ethical clearance has been obtained and the experiments were conducted in conformity with ethical guidelines.

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Selection of manuscripts and publication process

- a) Upon receipt of a manuscript, the Managing Editor will send an e-mail of confirmation to the corresponding author within five working days.
- b) Peer review process would be handled by the Editorial Board lead by the Editor in Chief. A double-blind system of peer reviewing would be used where reviewers' and authors' identities remain anonymous. The manuscripts will be reviewed by at least two experts. The peer review process of the articles will take 1-3 months period from the date of submission of the properly formatted article.
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- e) After publication, the corresponding author will receive an e-mail notification.
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Guidelines for preparation of manuscripts

Title Page

The title page should only consist of the title of the paper, name of author(s), affiliation/s of author(s) and orchid id of the corresponding author.

The title should be concise and informative enough to indicate the purpose/findings of the paper. The title page should be uploaded as a supplementary file for the editor to review (This will not be sent to reviewers).

Authors' names and affiliations

The preferred form of an author's name is last name/family name and initial(s); Omit all titles (e.g., Dr., Professor) and degrees (e.g., BSc, PhD).

The authors' affiliation at the time of conducting the research should be given, more than two affiliations per author is not allowed. If an author has no institutional affiliation, state the city/state and the country of residence. The names of authors should appear in the order of their contributions. For names with suffixes (e.g., Jr. and II), separate the suffix from the rest of the name with a space instead of a comma.

Example:

Perera L.A.¹, David A.C.^{1,2*}, Anderson P II¹ & Erickson J Jr.²

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Manuscript

Manuscripts should be organized in the following order:

Title, Abstract, Keywords (indexing terms), Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion, Acknowledgements, References.

General Rules for formatting the text

The entire text should be in the following text format.

Font: Times New Roman; Size: 10 pt.

Paragraph Spacing: Above paragraph - 0 pt.; below paragraph -4 pt.

Line Spacing: Exactly, 12 pt.

Heading 1: Times New Roman; 10 pt.; Bold; for example, **1. First-level Heading**

Heading 2: Times New Roman; 10 pt.; Italic; for example, *1.1 Second-level Heading*

Heading 3: Times New Roman; 10 pt.; for example, 1.1.1 Third-level Heading

Abstract

A concise abstract between 150 and 250 words (A review should contain a summary of not more than 300 words) should be written for full length articles briefly indicating the purpose of the research, the principal findings and conclusions. References should be avoided. The abstract must be able to stand alone.

Keywords

Immediately after the abstract, 3-6 keywords should be included in alphabetical order, avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (e.g., "and," "of"). Avoid abbreviations unless otherwise they are firmly established in the field of publication (e.g. PCR).

Tables

Number the tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place the caption above the body of the table and its description (if any) below the body. Avoid vertical lines. The data presented in tables should not duplicate the results described elsewhere in the article. Tables should fit the size of the page. Tables in the final revised version of the article need to be in both JPEG/TIFF and Microsoft Word format.

Example:

Table 1. Test concentrations (μg) used

Concentration	$M \pm SD$	95% CI	
		LL	UL
Paracetamol	14.5 ± 28.6	5.4	23.6
Diazepam	31.8 ± 33.2	21.2	42.4

Note. M = Mean; SD = Standard Deviation; CI=Confidence Interval; LL=lower limit, UL=upper limit.

Figures and illustrations

Number the figures consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place the caption and description below the figure. A minimum resolution of 300 dpi is required. Figures should fit the size of the page. If previously published figures/illustrations are included, the copyright holder's written permission should be submitted. Figures in the final revised version need to be in JPEG or TIFF format. Microsoft Word (DOC or DOCX) files are also need to be submitted for figures, that have been drawn in Word.

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments of people, grants, funds etc. should be placed in a separate section before the reference list. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

References:

References must be indicated in the text and tables as per the Harvard System, by the first author's surname and year in parenthesis (i.e. Silva, 1990; Dutta & Manamendra-Arachchi, 1996). When there are more than two authors, surname of first author should be followed by *et al.* (i.e. Liyanage *et al.*, 2005). Multiple citations should be in chronological order separated by a semi-colon (i.e. Perera *et al.*,1990; Able *et al.*, 2002). Multiple publications by the same first author in the same year should be coded by letters (i.e. Erickson, 2002a, 2002b). Reference to unpublished work, work in preparation or work under review should be avoided as much as possible. In unavoidable circumstances those may be cited in italics as (*Unpublished data*) with the author's name with initials; such work should not be included in the Reference section. Personal communications may be mentioned in the text with the name and the date of the communication (i.e. Perera, D., *Personal communication, 14 June 2015*).

The list of references should be written in the following format and should be arranged in the alphabetical order of the surname of the first author. Authors should check whether all references mentioned in the reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa.

Journal article:

Jayasuriya, A.H.M., Kitchener, D.J., Biradar, C.M. (2011) Viability status of biosphere reserves in Sri Lanka, *Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka* **39 (4)**: 303-319. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4038/jnsfsr.v39i4.3880>

Note: Journal name should be given in full and italicized

Books:

Dutta, S.K., Manamendra-Arachchi, K. (1996) *The Amphibian Fauna of Sri Lanka*, Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 230 p.

Note: Name of the book should be italicized.

Chapter of a book:

Gunatilleke, N. (2014) Forests and current status. In: *Sri Lanka's Forests-Nature at Your Service*, First Edition, pp. 2-30, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, Colombo, Sri Lanka,

Note: Name of the book should be italicized. If book is edited follow the sequence as for an article from an edited volume given below.

Article from an edited volume:

Amarasinghe, U.S., Nguyen, T.T.T. (2009) Enhancing rural farmer income through fish production: Secondary use of water resources in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. In: S.S. De Silva and F.B. Davy (eds), *Success Stories in Asian Aquaculture*. pp. 103-130, Springer Science, The Netherlands.

Note: Name of the edited volume should be italicized.

Conference paper:

Kumari, A.M.M.T., Suwadarathna, N.I., Fernandopulle, M.N.D. (2009) Determination of larval and pupal development of the two colour leaf beetle *Plesispa reichei* (Chapuis) under three different temperatures, *Proceedings of the 9th Agricultural Research Symposium*, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Gonawila, Sri Lanka, pp 177-180.

Note: Name of the Conference/Proceedings should be italicized.

Webpage:

Goolsby, D.A., Battaglin, W.A. (2000) Nitrogen in the Mississippi Basin – Estimating sources and predicting flux to the Gulf of Mexico. <http://ks.water.usgs.gov/pubs/fact-sheets/fs.135-00.html>, Retrieved on 24th December 2015.

References should be cited as ‘in press’ only if the paper has been accepted for publication.

Page numbering:

Number all pages consecutively including Figures and Tables.

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To maintain the transparency and judgements of potential bias, journal requires authors to declare any competing financial and/or non-financial interest in relation to the work described in their manuscript. It should be included in the manuscript after acknowledgements under the title ‘Conflict of interest/Competing interest’.

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- a.) The reason for the change in the author list
- b.) Consent from all authors for the change
- c.) In the case of addition or removal of authors, should include confirmation from the author being added or removed.

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Data availability

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Data availability statements can take one of the following forms:

- The relevant datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available in the [name of the repository] repository, [weblink]
- The relevant datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are not available publicly due to [give reason] but can obtain from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
- The relevant datasets generated and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.
- No datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study, thus data sharing is not applicable to this article.
- All data analyzed or generated during the current study are included in this published article.

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Any changes requested after publication of the article will be published as an erratum. An erratum is a statement by the authors of the original paper that briefly describes any correction/s resulting from errors or omissions. The article will not be removed from the online journal but a notice of erratum is given. The erratum is freely available for all readers and will be linked to the original article.

A notice of retraction will be published if a published article found or informed to be unreliable due to misconduct or honest error, published previously elsewhere without proper referencing or permission, work is plagiarized or unethical. In such case the published article will be removed from the online journal, leaving the bibliographic information. A notice of retraction will be published linked to the issue.

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Revised submissions/re-submissions

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