

# TROPICAL ECOLOGY

## Instructions to Authors for Manuscript Preparation

(REVISED 2015)

*Authors are urged to carefully study and comply with these instructions. 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 sub-tropics are considered for publication. Areas of current interest include: ecology of vegetation and ecosystems; soil ecology; stress ecology; restoration ecology; evolutionary ecology; wildlife ecology; plant-animal interactions; ecology of global change; ecosystem function and services; biological diversity and conservation; 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. Authors shall ascertain the accuracy of the suggested reviewers' addresses and e-mails.* 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, tables and figures.*

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

**Title Page.** The title should concisely reflect 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 is more than one author, the corresponding author should be indicated by an asterisk along with email address. 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 250 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 (do not repeat words from the title), 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. These should cover the following. **Introduction:** State the objectives of the work (including hypothesis or research questions) and provide an adequate background describing significance of the research work. Scientific approaches

to obtaining new knowledge involve testing of hypotheses. We encourage authors to use the introduction to develop the conceptual basis for the specific hypotheses and research questions that they are attempting to probe. This would include identifying the gap of knowledge addressed in the research work. We also encourage authors to specifically state in the introduction the hypothesis to be tested. A hypothesis states a measurable comparison between experimental outcomes. For example, "Calcium concentrations *are greater* in soils with than in soils without earthworms." This may be tested by comparing the two treatments (with and without earthworms) with an appropriate statistical test of means separation such as a t-test. The hypothesis "Fungal biomass is negatively affected by the presence of fungal feeding organisms" may be tested using regression analysis. Authors should state in the results section whether the hypotheses are supported by their data using appropriate statistical tests that they describe in the methods section. **Methods:** Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. This may include detailed information on experimental design, site selection, sampling methodologies, and statistical analyses. **Results:** Results should be clear and concise. If the results of the statistical analyses are presented in the text, the following conventions should be followed: Means and standard errors/standard deviations should be presented with their associated sample sizes in the form 'mean  $\pm$  SE = 14.0  $\pm$  1.2 g, N= 55'. For significance tests, provide the name of the test, the test statistic and its value, the degrees of freedom or sample size, and the *P*-value, separated by commas (e.g., Mann-Whitney U test, U = 39, n<sub>1</sub> = 2, n<sub>2</sub> = 21, *P* = 0.05, chi-square test,  $\chi^2$ = 191.05, df = 137, *P* = 0.002, *t*-test, *t* = 2.848, df = 266, *P* < 0.01, correlations, *r* = -0.48, *P* < 0.05, n = 16). For ANOVA, *F* value with associated degrees of freedom as subscript and *P* value should be presented (e.g.  $F_{5, 117} = 3.63$ , *P* = 0.004). **Discussion:** This section should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. **Conclusions:** The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of the Discussion section.

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 centered 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. Latin names, must always be italicized in the text. Special emphasis on word(s) in the text may be given by underlining; but this should be used very sparingly. 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 published by an author in a given year are cited, these 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.

*On-line material*, give the full URL, and the date when the reference was accessed as follows : IPCC. 2007. IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: climate change (AR<sub>4</sub>) [www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_and\\_data\\_reports.shtml#1](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.shtml#1) (accessed on 10 September 2009)

**Tables.** The best guide for laying out tables and figures are articles in a recent issue of *Tropical Ecology* (available at [www.tropecol.com](http://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 X- and Y- 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.

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

**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.

**Proofs.** Manuscripts will be scheduled for publication according to the dates of their acceptance. Author(s) will receive proofs for correction (*not revision*), which should be returned to the Chief Editor *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<sup>-1</sup>, cm<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>, g m<sup>-2</sup>, g C m<sup>-2</sup>, kg ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>, g g<sup>-1</sup> day<sup>-1</sup>, kJ ha<sup>-1</sup>. Recommended prefixes for use with SI units are:

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

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	df
diameter at breast height	dbh
gram	g
girth (circumference) at breast height	gbh
hectare	ha
hour	h
Joule	J

kilogram	kg
litre (dm <sup>3</sup> )	l
logarithm	log <sub>10</sub>
logarithm (base e)	ln or log <sub>e</sub>
lux	lx
kilometre	km
metre	m
minute (time)	min
minute (angle)	'(e.g. 25')
not significant	N.S.
number of observations	n
parts per billion (10 <sup>-9</sup> )	ppb
parts per million (10 <sup>-6</sup> )	ppm
per cent	%
per thousand	‰
second (time)	s
second (angle)	(e.g. 25")
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
tonne (10 <sup>3</sup> 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, has been seen by all co-authors, 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. The mss will be handled by Associate Editors (see the Editorial Board at [www.tropecol.com](http://www.tropecol.com)) with expertise, as far as possible, in the area of the ms.