

ADVICE TO AUTHORS

Before submitting a manuscript, it helps to send a copy of the title, abstract and approximate length to scarab@u.arizona.edu. We will advise by e-mail if the manuscript appears relevant to EER.

Electronic submission: All files *must* be in **pdf** format. If they are not, or cannot easily be read the first time they are sent, it will be necessary to submit hard copy. Attach your pdf files to an e-mail and send to scarab@u.arizona.edu. When a paper is finally accepted, then please supply it in **pdf** format together with a version in Word.

Style: Use English. Make it simple. Avoid long, complex sentences (break them up). Use 'I' and 'me' if accurate.

People from many sub-areas of biology read our journal. So keep jargon to a minimum. And define all terms that might befuddle someone outside your own narrow area. (Note that I could have written the preceding three sentences as one long sentence. But I used three simple sentences instead.)

Use the active voice when you can. A good rule: Minimize the proportion of your sentences using the verb 'to be'. For example, write 'depends on' rather than 'is dependent on'.

Treat abstract sentences like a disease. Cure them. For example, write 'species diversity declines at increasing latitude', not 'species diversity is related to latitude'. Make your sentences convey information.

Use bullet lists wherever they improve comprehension and readability.

Follow these few rules. They will improve the impact of your work.

Please be aware that we cannot afford the time to rewrite your manuscript. The editors will judge whether the style of a manuscript makes it difficult to understand. If that is the case, they might reject it. We have no appeal process to change an editor's decision.

Figures: Make figures simple too. Use large labels that allow for reduction. Remember, the type page is only 195 × 135 mm. Where possible, organize multiple figures horizontally. This will save space.

Organization: Start with the abstract. Tell your story. Review the literature only as necessary. Use no more than two levels of headings unless absolutely necessary. End with acknowledgements and references.

References: Use the following style for references:

- Brown, A.B. 1980. The control of colour in birds. *Am. Zool.*, **39**: 678–679.
Brown, A.B. 1981. *The Birds of South America*, Vol. 1. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
Brown, A.B. and Jones, T.A. 1979. A field study of the calfbird, *Perissocephalus tricolor*. *Ibis*, **114**: 123–129.
Brown, A.B., Jones, T.A. and Wallace, C.M. 1967. Surmounting barriers to forest regeneration: A case study. In *Alternatives to Deforestation: Steps Towards Sustainable Use of Rainforests* (A.B. Anderson, R.B. Brown and T.R. Watson, eds), pp. 909–980. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Brown, W.R. 1965. Pearl bodies as an ant food. *Biotropica*, **14**: 10–19.
Brown, W.R. and Green, M.A. 1985. Reproduction and mating behaviour in *Rana lessonae*. Paper presented at the 24th Annual Meeting of the Society for Animal Ecology, Boston, MA, March.
Green, C.A. 1998. Clonal diversity in a sunfish. In *Proceedings of the 21st Meeting of the British Zoological Society* (W.M. Hearn and T.Y. Grip, eds), pp. 1–23. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.

Evolutionary Ecology Research also publishes comments of no more than two printed pages. Comments should discuss a paper previously published in EER. Authors of comments criticizing the work of others must provide written evidence that they discussed the issues with those others, but could not resolve their differences.

Comments have no abstract. They include all their references within the body of the text, omitting titles of papers (e.g. Hodges and Arnold, 1995, *Proc. R. Soc. Lond. B*, **262**: 343–348). They do not have a separate reference list.

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