

## **Animal Behaviour**

### **Instructions for Authors (abbreviated)**

(Revised June 1998)

Authors may find recent articles in *Animal Behaviour* to be useful models for the instructions outlined below.

### **General Guidelines**

Use active voice whenever feasible, and write in the first person

### **Formatting of Text**

Type all manuscripts with double line spacing and aligned left, including the abstract, references, figure legends and tables. Print pages on one side only for editing purposes. Manuscripts should have page numbers and wide margins throughout (including the abstract, references, figure legends and tables).

### **Headings**

Headings in the body of the manuscript should be brief. The usual main headings are: Abstract, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments and References (Introduction is not used). Type main headings in capitals on a separate line and center them on the page. Type subheadings at the left of the page and on a separate line, and begin the main words with a capital letter. Start sub-subheadings on a new line, aligned full left, and underline them. Start the text on a new line after subheadings and sub-subheadings.

### **Parts of the Manuscript**

Arrange manuscripts in the following order: title page, abstract, text, appendices, acknowledgments, references, tables, figure legends, figures.

### **Title page**

The title page must include the following information:

Title. This should be brief and informative, and should not exceed 120 characters. Avoid abbreviations. Authors' names (in capitals) and academic affiliations below the title.

### **Abstract**

The Abstract should describe the purpose of the study, outline the major findings and state the main conclusions. It should be concise, informative, explicit and intelligible without

reference to the text. Abstracts should usually be limited to 250 words. Use both common and scientific names of animals at first mention in the Abstract unless they are given in the title. Avoid using references.

## **Introduction**

The Introduction should be brief, not normally exceeding two manuscript pages. It should explicitly state the aims of the study and place it within the context of existing work.

## **Methods**

The Methods should be sufficiently detailed to allow someone else to replicate the study. Repetition of methodological details can sometimes be avoided by referring to previous studies, however. Always state sample sizes (the number of animals used in the study, and their age and sex if known) and the age, sex, breed/strain and source of animals. Full details of testing or observational regimes should be given. If captive animals were used, include details of housing conditions relevant to the study (e.g. cage size and type, bedding, group size and composition, lighting, temperature, ambient noise conditions, maintenance diets) both during the study and during any period before the study that might bear on the results. The Methods section may also contain a description of the kinds of statistics used and the activities that were recorded.

## **Results -**

This section should include only results that are relevant to the hypotheses outlined in the Introduction and considered in the Discussion. The text should complement and describe material given in Tables or Figures but should not directly repeat it. Give full details of statistical analysis either in the text or in Tables or Figure legends. Include the type of test, the precise data to which it was applied, the sample size and/or degrees of freedom, and the probability level (p-value). Number Tables and Figures in the order that they are referred to in the text.

[Descriptions of data should include a measure of central tendency (e.g., mean) as well as measure of variation in the data (e.g., standard deviation or variance) when relevant.]

## **Discussion**

It is often helpful to begin the Discussion with a summary of the main results. The main purpose of the Discussion, however, is to comment on the significance of the results and set them in the context of previous work. The Discussion should be concise and not excessively speculative.

## **References**

For references in the text, give full surnames for papers by one or two authors, but only the surname of the first author, followed by 'et al.' for three or more (note that 'et al.' is not underlined). Check that all references in the text are in the reference list and vice versa, that their dates and spellings match, and that complete bibliographical details are given, including page numbers, names of editors, name of publisher and full place of publication if the article is published in a book.

Cite references in the text as, for example, Fagen & Young (1978) or, if in parentheses, as (Murton 1963). Do not use commas to separate the author's name from the date. Use lower-case letters to distinguish between two papers by the same authors in the same year, e.g. Packer 1979a.

Type references in the following form:

Bailey, N. J. 1981. *Statistical Methods in Biology*. 2nd edn. London: Unibooks.

Emlen, S. T. 1978. The evolution of cooperative behaviour in birds. In: *Behavioural Ecology* (Ed. by J. R. Krebs & N. B. Davies), pp. 245-281. Oxford: Blackwell

Scientific Publications.

Robinson, M. H. & Robinson, B. 1970. The stabilimentum of the orb web spider, *Argiope argentata*: an improbable defense against predators. *Canadian Entomologist*, 102, 641-645.

Smith, J.K. 1985. Investigations on a freshwater crab. Ph.D. thesis, University of Durham.

**Tables** [*See examples in your Alcock text*]

Keep Tables as simple as possible and make them understandable without reference to the text. Type each table on a separate page and indicate its place in the text in the left-hand margin at the appropriate position on the manuscript. In addition: Use Arabic numerals to number Tables. Give brief titles above the table with no period at the end. Give extra information (e.g. the results of statistical tests) as a footnote below the table. Do not divide tables into two or more parts. Tables should not contain vertical rules, and the main body of the table should not contain horizontal rules. Large tables should be narrow (across the page) and long (down the page) rather than wide and short, so that they can be fitted into the column width of the journal.

**Figures** [*See examples in your Alcock text*]

A figure and its legend should be sufficiently informative that the results can be understood without reference to the text. Give keys and other explanations either in the legend or on the figure itself. Number figures consecutively in Arabic numerals. Type all figure legends together on a separate sheet, double spaced, with three lines between successive figure legends. Abbreviate 'Figure' to 'Fig.' except when starting a sentence and at the beginning of the figure legend.

### **Footnotes**

Use footnotes only to add information below the body of a Table.

### **Numerals**

Write numbers of 10 or more as numerals except at the beginning of a sentence. Write the numbers one to nine in words, unless they precede units of measure or are used as designators. Quote times of day using the 24-hour clock without a break or point in the middle and followed by 'hours'; e.g. '1515 hours'. Give years in full; e.g. '1986 1987'.