



Biodegradation

Instructions for authors

Online manuscript submission

Biodegradation has a fully web-enabled manuscript submission and review system. This system offers authors the option of tracking in real time the review process of their manuscripts. The online manuscript and review system offers easy and straightforward log-in and submission procedures. It supports a wide range of submission file formats, including Word, WordPerfect, RTF, TXT and LaTeX for article text and TIFF, EPS, PS, GIF, JPEG and PPT for figures. PDF is not a recommended format.

Manuscripts should be submitted to: <http://biod.edmgr.com>

Authors are requested to download the Consent to Publish and Transfer of Copyright form from this system. Please send a completed and signed form either by mail or fax to the Biodegradation Office.

NOTE: By using the online manuscript submission and review system, it is NOT necessary to submit the manuscript also as printout + disk. In case you encounter any difficulties while submitting your manuscript online, please get in touch with the responsible Editorial Assistant by clicking on "CONTACT US" from the toolbar.

Biodegradation welcomes general papers, review papers and original research papers.

General papers describing original research should not exceed ten pages of printed text, including tables, figures and references (one page of printed text = approx. 600 words).

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Papers already published or in press elsewhere will not be accepted. If any part of the subject matter or experiments included in a manuscript submitted to the Journal have been the subject of any prior publication, this prior publication must be identified. Papers of restricted local importance will not be accepted.

The Journal requests the submission of manuscripts on diskette.

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Electronic versions of your figures must be supplied. For vector graphics, EPS is the preferred format. For bitmapped graphics, TIFF is the preferred format. The following resolutions are optimal: line figures – 600–1200 dpi; photographs

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Language

We appreciate any efforts that you make to ensure that the language is corrected before submission. This will greatly improve the legibility of your paper if English is not your first language.

Article Plus

The journal offers a new feature called Article Plus: the possibility to add electronic addenda to your publication. This can be any type of electronic material – e.g. data, pictures, sounds, movies – as long as it is presented in an generally accessible format. Please contact the publisher should you have any electronic material you wish to add as a supplement to your publication. The material will be hosted on a site provided by Kluwer, and a fixed URL will be included in the text of the printed paper.

Tables

Each table should be numbered consecutively (1, 2, etc.). In tables, footnotes are preferable to long explanatory material in either the heading or body of the table. Such explanatory footnotes, identified by superscript letters, should be placed immediately below the table. Please provide a caption (without abbreviations) to each table, refer to the table in the text and note its approximate location in the margin. Finally, please place the tables after the figure legends in the manuscript.

Figures

All photographs, graphs and diagrams should be referred to as a 'Figure' and they should be numbered consecutively (1, 2, etc.). Multi-part figures ought to be labelled with lower case letters (a, b, etc.). Please insert keys and scale bars directly in the figures. Relatively small text and great variation in text sizes within figures should be avoided as figures are often reduced in size. Figures may be sized to fit approximately within the column(s) of the journal. Provide a detailed legend (without abbreviations) to each figure, refer

to the figure in the text and note its approximate location in the margin. Please place the legends in the manuscript after the references.

Presentation of the manuscript

Manuscripts should be written in standard English and submitted as one original manuscript, six carbon or photocopies, each including all tables, figures, and references, and a diskette. Four sets of original halftones are required. The author should retain a complete copy of the manuscript.

Manuscripts should be typed clearly, double-spaced throughout on one side of A4 paper with margins of 3[–]5 cm. All papers (including the tables, figures, legends and references) should be numbered consecutively.

As a guide for acceptable style please consult: Council of Botany Style Manual, 6th edition (1987), available from the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814, USA.

The manuscript should be arranged in the following order:

Title page (page 1)

- The title should be brief but informative. A subtitle may be used to shorten an excessively long main title.
- The author's full name (if more than one, use "&" before the last name and indicate to whom correspondence should be addressed).
- Affiliation(s)/Address(es) should be complete.

Key words / Abstract / Abbreviations (page 2)

- Key words (a maximum of 6, in alphabetical order, suitable for indexing).
- Abstract (brief and informative, not to exceed 250 words). No abbreviations should be used in the abstract.
- Abbreviations (arranged alphabetically, only those which are not familiar and/or commonly used). Optional.

Main text

- The text should, if possible, be developed under the following headings: Introduction, Materials and methods, Results / Discussion and Conclusions.
- The relative importance of headings and subheadings should be clear. The approximate location of figures and tables should be indicated in the margin.
- New paragraphs should be clearly indented.
- The use of footnotes should be avoided. However, if essential, they should be typed on the appropriate page, but clearly separated from the text with a line above them.

After the main text

- Acknowledgements (also grants, support etc, if any) should follow the text and precede the references.

- Notes should be numbered consecutively with superscript numerals and listed in numerical order after Acknowledgements.

References

- Literature references should be listed alphabetically, typed double-spaced, and in the text referred to by author name and year of publication enclosed in parentheses, e.g. (Smith 1989; Brown & White 1990).
- Citations of personal communications and unpublished data should be avoided, unless absolutely necessary. Such citations should in text appear only as: (D. Wilman, pers. comm.), (C.S. Andrew, unpubl.), and not in the reference list.
- Abbreviate titles of periodicals according to the style of the *Bibliographic Guide for Editors and Authors* (Biosis, Chemical Abstract Service and Engineering Index, Inc., 1974).
- References should contain: author(s) name(s) followed by author(s) initials, year, title of article (only first word and proper nouns capitalized), journal (not underlined), volume number, and inclusive page numbers. Books must include the location and name of the publisher.

Examples

Periodicals

Yen KM & Serdar CM (1988) Genetics of naphthalene catabolism in pseudomonads. *Crit. Rev. Microbiol.* 15: 247–268

Books (edited by someone other than author of article)

Smith EL, Austen BM, Blumenthal KM & Nyc JF (1975) Glutamate dehydrogenases. In: Boyer PD (Ed) *The Enzymes*, Vol 11 (pp 293–367). Academic Press, New York

Books (Monographs)

Hicks CR (1973) *Fundamental Concepts in the Design of Experiments*. Holt, Rinehard and Winston, New York

Abbreviations and units

- SI units should be used, e.g.: mg, g, kg, km, m, cm, mm, ppm, cpm, μCi (microCurie), l (litre), ml, s (second), min (minute), h (hour), mol, m^{-3} , kg per ha or kg ha^{-3} (the minus index form is always to be used in tables).

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