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The Indian Journal of Natural Sciences is a **Bi-monthly International Journal**, which publishes original research work that contributes significantly to further the scientific knowledge in **Natural Sciences** (All science disciplines). The Journal publishes original research work either as a Full Research Paper or as a Short Communication. Review Articles in Natural Sciences are also considered for publication by the Journal.

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Submission of a manuscript to Indian Journal of Natural Sciences for publication implies that the same work has not been either published or under consideration for publication in another Journal. Authors, in their cover note to the Editor, have to clearly mention whether the manuscript shall be considered as a Research Paper, Short Communication or Review Article and also confirm that the manuscript has not been submitted to any other Journal for publication. Authors publishing results from *in vivo* experiments involving animals or humans should state whether due permission for conduction of

these experiments was obtained, from the relevant ethics committees, in the Materials and Methods section. In addition, authors wishing to publish research work involving human studies should also send a notary verified letter of approval from the Ethics Committee or the Institutional Review Board.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS: RESEARCH PAPERS

Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with "Uniform requirements for Manuscripts submitted to Biomedical Journal" developed by International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (October 2001). Authors desirous of submitting manuscripts for publication to the Indian Journal of Natural Sciences are advised to refer to the current issue of the Journal to understand the format and style of papers that get published. Authors are also advised to go through the current set of Instructions to Authors and prepare their manuscripts accordingly. Information should be conveyed in simple language with the correct syntax. Care should be taken to avoid common errors like having abbreviations in the Title or Abstract, beginning a sentence with a numeral, adding "etc." after a few examples, dropping articles and using "&" instead of 'and' in the text. The usage of standard abbreviations and symbols is encouraged. Manuscripts that fail to conform to the requirements of the Journal, as specified under Instructions to Authors, will be rejected outright.

Manuscripts should be concisely written and conform to the following general requirements: Manuscripts should be typewritten in double-space in A4 sized sheets, only on one side, with a 2 cm margin on both sides. Research Papers should have more than 15 pages, Review Articles in the range of 15-30 pages and Short Communications up to 15 pages, inclusive of illustrations. Pages should be numbered consecutively, starting with the title page and the matter arranged in the following order: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion or Results and Discussion, Acknowledgements, References, Illustrations (Tables and figures including chemistry schemes along with titles and legends) and figure and Table titles and legends. Abstract should start on a separate page and each table or figure should be on separate sheets. The titles "Abstract" and "Introduction" need not be mentioned. All other section titles should be in capital letters while subtitles in each section shall be in bold face lower case followed by a colon.

Title Page - Title page should contain title of the paper in bold face, title case (font size 14), names of the authors in normal face, upper case (font size 12) followed by the address(es) in normal face lower case. The author to whom all correspondence be addressed should be denoted by an asterisk mark. The title should be as short as possible and precisely indicate the nature of the work in the communication. Names of the authors should appear as initials followed by surnames for men and one given-name followed by surname for women. Full names may be given in some instances to avoid confusion. Names should not be prefixed or suffixed by titles or degrees. Names should be followed by the complete postal address or addresses with pin code numbers of the place(s), where the research work has been carried out. At the bottom left corner of the title page, please mention “*Address For correspondence” and provide a functional e-mail address. Address of the corresponding author to whom all correspondence may be sent should be given only if it is different from the address already given under authors’ names. Trivial sub-titles such as ‘Title’, ‘Author’, ‘Address’ or ‘Place of Investigation’ shall not be included in the title page. Title page should be aligned centre except for “* Address For correspondence”. Provide a running title or short title of not more than 50 characters

Abstract - Should start on a new page after the title page and should be typed in single-space to distinguish it from the Introduction. Abstracts should briefly reflect all aspects of the study, as most databases list mainly abstracts. Short Communications as well as Review Articles should have an Abstract.

Key-words - Provide four to ten appropriate key words after abstract.

Introduction - Shall start immediately after the Abstract, as the next paragraph, but should be typed in double-space. The Introduction should lead the reader to the importance of the study; tie-up published literature with the aims of the study and clearly states the rationale behind the investigation.

Materials and Methods - Shall start as a continuation to introduction on the same page. All important materials used along with their source shall be mentioned. The main methods used shall be briefly described, citing references. Trivial details may be avoided. New

methods or substantially modified methods may be described in sufficient detail. The statistical method and the level of significance chosen shall be clearly stated.

Results - All findings presented in tabular or graphical form shall be described in this section. The data should be statistically analyzed and the level of significance stated. Data that is not statistically significant need only to be mentioned in the text - no illustration is necessary. All Tables and figures must have a title or caption and a legend to make them self-explanatory. Results section shall start after materials and methods section on the same page.

Discussion - This section should follow results, deal with the interpretation of results, convey how they help increase current understanding of the problem and should be logical. Unsupported hypothesis should be avoided. The Discussion should state the possibilities the results uncover, that need to be further explored. There is no need to include another title such as "Conclusions" at the end of Discussion. Results and discussion of results can also be combined under one section, Results and Discussion.

Acknowledgements - Should be given after the text and not in the form of foot-notes.

References - Should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text (not in alphabetic order). Identify references in text, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals in superscript in square brackets. References cited only in tables or figure legends should be numbered in accordance with the sequence established by the first identification in the text of the particular table or figure. Use the style of the examples below, which are based on the formats used by the international journals. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in international journals. Use complete name of the journal for non-indexed journals. Avoid using abstracts as references. Information from manuscripts submitted but not accepted should be cited in the text as "unpublished observations" with written permission from the source. Avoid citing a "personal communication" unless it provides essential information not available from a public source, in which case the name of the person and date of communication should be cited in parentheses in the text. For scientific articles, contributors should obtain written permission and confirmation of accuracy from the source of a personal communication.

The commonly cited types of references are shown here, for other types of references such as electronic media, newspaper items, etc. please refer to ICMJE Guidelines (<http://www.icmje.org>).

Articles in Journals

1. Devi KV, Pai RS. Antiretrovirals: Need for an Effective Drug Delivery. *Indian J Pharm Sci* 2006;68:1-6.

List the first six contributors followed by *et al.*

2. Volume with supplement: Shen HM, Zhang QF. Risk assessment of nickel carcinogenicity and occupational lung cancer. *Environ Health Perspect* 1994; 102 Suppl 1:275-82.
3. Issue with supplement: Payne DK, Sullivan MD, Massie MJ. Women's psychological reactions to breast cancer. *Semin Oncol* 1996;23(1, Suppl 2):89-97.

Books and other Monographs

4. Personal author(s): Ringsven MK, Bond D. Gerontology and leadership skills for nurses. 2nd ed. Albany (NY): Delmar Publishers; 1996.
5. Editor(s), compiler(s) as author: Norman IJ, Redfern SJ, editors. Mental health care for elderly people. New York: Churchill Livingstone; 1996.
6. Chapter in a book: Phillips SJ, Whisnant JP. Hypertension and stroke. In: Laragh JH, Brenner BM, editors. Hypertension: pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management. 2nd ed. New York: Raven Press; 1995. p. 465-78.

Illustrations: Tables - Should be typed on separate sheets of paper and should not preferably contain any molecular structures. Only MS word table format should be used for preparing tables. Tables should show lines separating columns but not those separating rows except for the top row that shows column captions. Tables should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals and bear a brief title in capital letters normal face. Units of measurement should be abbreviated and placed below the column headings. Column headings or captions shall be in bold face. It is essential that all tables have legends, which explain the contents of the table. Tables should not be very large that they run more than one A4 sized page. Tables should not be prepared in the landscape format, i. e. tables that are prepared width wise on the paper.

Figures - Should be on separate pages but not inserted with in the text. Figures should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals and bear a brief title in lower case bold face letters below the figure. Graphs and bar graphs should preferably be prepared using Microsoft Excel and submitted as Excel graph pasted in Word. These graphs and illustrations should be drawn to approximately twice the printed size to obtain satisfactory reproduction. As far as possible, please avoid diagrams made with India ink on white drawing paper, cellophane sheet or tracing paper with hand written captions or titles. Photographs should be on glossy paper. Photographs should bear the names of the authors and the title of the paper on the back, lightly in pencil. Alternatively photographs and photomicrographs can be submitted as jpeg images. Figure and Table titles and legends should be typed on a separate page with numerals corresponding to the illustrations. Keys to symbols, abbreviations, arrows, numbers or letters used in the illustrations should not be written on the illustration itself but should be clearly explained in the legend. Avoid inserting a box with key to symbols, in the figure or below the figure. In case of photomicrographs, magnification should be mentioned either directly on them or in the legend. Symbols, arrows or letters used in photomicrographs should contrast with the background. Method of staining should also be mentioned in the legend.

Chemical terminology - The chemical nomenclature used must be in accordance with that used in the Chemical Abstracts.

Symbols and abbreviations - Unless specified otherwise, all temperatures are understood to be in degrees centigrade and need not be followed by the letter 'C'. Abbreviations should be those well known in scientific literature. *In vitro*, *in vivo*, *in situ*, *ex vivo*, *ad libitum*, *et al.* and so on are two words each and should be written in italics. None of the above is a hyphenated word. All foreign language (other than English) names and words shall be in italics as a general rule. Words such as carrageenan-induced inflammation, paracetamol-induced hepatotoxicity, isoproterenol-induced myocardial necrosis, dose-dependent manner are all hyphenated.

Biological nomenclature - Names of plants, animals and bacteria should be in italics.

Enzyme nomenclature - The trivial names recommended by the IUPAC-IUB Commission should be used. When the enzyme is the main subject of a paper, its code number and systematic name should be stated at its first citation in the paper.

Spelling - These should be as in the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

The journal publishes exciting findings, preliminary data or studies that did not yield enough information to make a full paper as short communications. These have the same format requirements as full papers but are only up to 15 pages in length in total. Short Communications should not have subtitles such as Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion - all these have to be merged into the running text. Short Communications preferably should have only 3-4 illustrations.

REVIEW ARTICLES

Should be about 15-30 pages long, contain up-to-date information, comprehensively cover relevant literature and preferably be written by scientists who have in-depth knowledge on the topic. All format requirements are same as those applicable to full papers. Review articles need not be divided into sections such as materials and Methods and Results and Discussion, but should definitely have an Abstract and Introduction, if necessary.

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