

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

The interest of the journal is field (terrestrial and aquatic) and experimental botany including plant viruses, bacteria, archaea, algae and fungi, from subcellular level to the ecosystem level with a geographic focus on karstic areas of the southern Europe and the Adriatic Sea (Mediterranean).

The journal welcomes manuscripts for publication in the following categories: research papers, short communications, book reviews, social news and announcements. Review articles are accepted on editor invitation only.

Manuscripts should be submitted using On-line Manuscript Submission at <http://www.abc.botanic.hr>. Registration and login are required to submit items on-line and to check the status of current submissions. For submission, after LOGIN find USER HOME then AUTHOR and go to NEW SUBMISSION.

Under SUBMISSION METADATA, fill in the names and e-mail addresses of **all authors**. Criteria for authorship are as set out by the ICMJE and as recommended by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Article submission and publishing are free of charge.

Cover letter

In the cover letter addressed to Editor-in-Chief, the authors should explain how the manuscript meets the scope of the journal and indicate why it will be of interest to the general readership of *Acta Botanica Croatica*. Authors should propose the names and e-mail addresses of at least **five potential reviewers** who are experts in the topic of manuscript. **Please avoid colleagues with joint publications, or from the same institutions. At least three of them have to be international recognized scientists outside of your home country.** Also, in the cover letter, confirm that the manuscript has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere and that all authors have read the manuscript and approved it for submission. Include also Founding statement in which any sources of financial support should be specified.

Type of contribution

RESEARCH PAPER

A research paper is a fully documented report of original research. The manuscript should be divided into Introduction, Material and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References (**maximum 40**), Table and figure captions, Tables, Figures. There may be up to **12 single-spaced typewritten pages**, excluding figures and tables. There may be up to **8 tables and/or figures in total** per manuscript. Additional figures and/or tables can be published online only as supplementary materials. All tables and figures should be cited in the text properly (Fig. 1, 2, ..., On-line Suppl. Tab. or Fig.). Exceptionally, in papers dealing with conceptual and theoretical bases, especially botanical and phytosociological nomenclature, Results and Discussion can be combined into one section.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Short communications should consist of not more than **3 single-spaced typewritten pages** and a **maximum of two tables and/or figures**. The text should be divided into Abstract (containing no more than 100 words), Keywords (up to five; listed in alphabetical order), Introduction, Material and methods, Results and discussion, Acknowledgements, References (**maximum 10**), Table and figure captions, Tables and/or Figures.

We may consider longer short communication and research articles with a compelling rationale in the cover letter, contingent upon the content's justification for the extended length.

REVIEW ARTICLE

Review and mini-review articles are usually accepted for the reviewing process if invited by editor. Authors who wish to contribute a manuscript to this category are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief. The manuscript should be organized according to *Acta Botanica Croatica* guidelines and there are no limitations on the number of references.

SOCIAL NEWS AND BOOK REVIEWS

We also welcome popular news describing interesting events, anniversaries, as well as short and concise reviews of newly published books in the field of plant sciences.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPT

General

The manuscript should be submitted as a Word document. The writing needs to be clear, concise and **in correct English**. Unfortunately, we do not offer a language editing service as part of the submission process, so it is up to authors to ensure the highest quality of writing in their manuscript. If the language is deemed too inadequate for easy understanding, the manuscript will be returned to authors without review.

The text should be single-spaced and left-adjusted, using Times New Roman and 12 point letter size. The layout of the document should be A4 (21 × 29.5 cm). Adjust indentation to 1 cm (i.e., the first line of all paragraphs and hanging paragraphs of References). Input your text continuously, i.e. insert hard returns exclusively at the ends of paragraphs, headings etc. Do not use the space bar to create indents; the indent command should be used for this purpose. Leave a space between mathematical symbols and numbers (e.g. 2 + 3, 3 < 9). Always leave a space between a number and a Celsius degree symbol (e.g. 12 °C). Do not leave a space when using the multiplication and percentage symbols (e.g. 6×12%). Each page should be numbered.

The metric system should be used throughout the manuscript. If required, equivalent values in other systems may be placed in parentheses immediately after the metric value.

Italicize only the names of genes (e.g. *Arp1* gene), genera, species, subspecies and lower taxonomic units. Genetic information, such as DNA, RNA, or protein sequences, should

be submitted to public data bases (GenBank, EMBL, etc.), and accession numbers should be available in Material and methods. Voucher specimens must be made and deposited in a public herbarium. For endemic and protected taxa, permission has to be obtained from the competent authority. The nomenclature of taxa and syntaxa has to be in strict accordance with international rules (codes).

Title page

TITLE, should not exceed 120 characters (without spaces).

NAMES OF ALL AUTHORS (name and surname in full), their mailing and e-mail addresses, and institutional affiliations should be given. Include the corresponding author's e-mail address and telephone number.

RUNNING TITLE, should not exceed 50 characters (without spaces).

ABSTRACT of up to 250 words that highlights the objective, results, and conclusion of the paper.

KEY WORDS (up to eight, in alphabetical order), to identify the subjects under which the article may be indexed.

Content of manuscript

Keep the Introduction brief, stating clearly the purpose of the article and its relation to other papers on the same subject. Do not give an extensive review of literature. Provide enough information in the Material and methods section to enable other investigators to repeat the experiments. Report Results clearly. In the Discussion interpret the results, state their meaning and draw conclusions. Do not simply repeat the results. Proceed with Acknowledgements where any sources of financial support as well as any individuals who were of direct help to the authors should be acknowledged. At the end give Author contribution statement in which the contributions of all authors should be described.

References

Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Some examples: Wrisher (1998), ... Jones and Smith (1987), ... (Jones 1987a, b), Jones et al. (1986), ... (Facca et al. 2002, 2003, Socal et al. 2006).

Arrange names of authors chronologically in text, e.g: (Jones 1986, Allen 1987). The list of references should be typed in alphabetical order. The articles in English, Spanish, French, German and Italian are accepted in the Reference list. For any other language, please provide the English translation in parentheses. Unpublished materials should be cited in the text as personal observations or unpublished data. Identify authors of unpublished work. Check the text citations against the Reference list to make sure there are no gaps or inconsistencies. Names of journals should be given in full, followed by volume and (issue) numbers and pages. To mark a span of pages use en dash (–) instead of a hyphen(-). Please provide doi numbers wherever is possible.

Use the following formats for Reference list style:

Journal article:

Colangelo, E. P., Guerinot, M. L., 2006: Put the metal to the petal: metal uptake and transport throughout plants.

Current Opinion in Plant Biology 9(3), 322–330. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbi.2006.03.015>

Books:

Horvat, I., Glavaš, V., Ellenberg, H., 1974: Vegetation Sudosteuropas. Geobotanica selecta 4. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart.

Chapter in a book:

Broadwater, S. T., Scott, J., 1994: Ultrastructure of unicellular red algae. In: Seckbach, J. (ed.), Evolutionary pathways and enigmatic algae: *Cyanidium caldarium* (Rhodophyta) and related cells, 215–230. Kluwer Academic Publishers, Amsterdam.

On-line sources: Author, year, title, source. Retrieved October 15, 2015 from <http://www...>

Table and figures

Table and figure legends should be added following references, on the next page.

Tables should be on separate pages. Tables should be prepared in Microsoft Office Word or Excel. Vertical lines should not be visible in tables. The maximum width of a printed table should be 150 characters in broadside. The preferred table organization format can be seen in articles published in previous issues of Acta Botanica Croatica, which are freely available on-line. Large tables and primary data can be published as supplementary materials on-line, but not in the printed version. All tables should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. They should be cited in the text properly (Tab. 1, On-line Suppl. Tab. 1, etc.). Table title should be above the table, on the same page as the table to which it corresponds. The tables need to be self-explanatory: the authors should provide enough information in captions (explain all abbreviations, write full Latin names etc.) so that each table is understandable without reference to the text.

Figures should be submitted in appropriate electronic formats as Supplementary files as well as embedded within the manuscript after the tables. Every figure must be referenced in the text. Figures should be numbered in Arabic numerals (below the figure). Figures may be arranged in panels, in which individual images should be divided by white lines no more than 2 mm wide. Line art-works and half-tones or photographic images should be saved as Tagged Image Format (tif) with a resolution of at least 600 dpi or in pdf. The size of tif files can be decreased using Lossless Compression (LZW). Vector graphics (xls, cmx, eps, wmf) should be saved in pdf. All lettering on figures should be in Arial and legible after reduction. Y- and X-axis need to be black, tick marks on axes should be oriented inwards. Graph lines should be thicker than axes lines. Each figure and figure caption should contain all the information necessary for it to be self-explanatory (explain all abbreviations, write full Latin names etc.) so that each figure is understandable without reference to the text. Colour figures are acceptable only if necessary (photographs, not plots and curves) and they are free of charge.

Additional guidelines

All on-line supplementary materials have to be uploaded as a separate Word document and supplementary figures should be submitted in appropriate electronic formats (tif or pdf) as separate files.

Appendices (optional): Each appendix must be numbered as Appendices 1., 2. etc and must have a title.

Footnotes should not be used; information should be integrated into the text.

REVIEW PROCESS

Acta Botanica Croatica is committed to peer-review integrity and upholding the highest standards of review. Once your paper has been assessed for suitability by the Editor-in-Chief and Section Editor, it will then be single blind peer reviewed by independent, anonymous expert referees.

Manuscripts that meet the scientific and journal technical criteria will be sent to the review process. Please note that the journal uses software to screen for plagiarism. Acta Botanica Croatica participates in an initiative by CrossRef (<http://www.crossref.org>) to prevent scholarly and professional plagiarism in scientific publications. This initiative is known as Crossref Similarity Check and provides its members a service to screen received content for originality against a vast database of relevant published material.

AHEAD OF PRINT

The accepted article, including supplementary files, that has been language edited and checked for references, will be published on-line as "Ahead of print" at <https://hrcak.srce.hr/acta-botanica-croatica> and citable with the DOI number.

PROOFS

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In case of suspicion of plagiarism or unethical handling of research results, published article will be retracted. The retraction note will be published in a prominent place in the journal and will contain an explanation of why the article was retracted and a bibliographic reference referring to the article.