

Instructions for authors

General Information

The journal publishes two kinds of papers: Articles and Complements. Articles are original research papers, research notes, or critical reviews on a specific topic. Reviews and research papers should not exceed 12 printed pages, including tables and figures. Research notes should not exceed 4 printed pages. Complements are short papers dealing with microbiological subjects of broad interest: editorials, perspectives, opinions, book reviews, obituaries, etc.

■ **Manuscripts in electronic form.** Authors must send their manuscripts, only in electronic form, by e-mail. Large files should be compressed. Manuscripts should be e-mailed to:

E-mail: int.microbiol@microbios.org
Tel. +34-934482373. Fax +34-933341079
URL: <http://www.im.microbios.org>

■ Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the journal's accepted practice, form, and content; they should be checked carefully to exclude the need for corrections in proof. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced and with wide margins. The author should mark where figures and tables are to be inserted.

Arrangement of research articles

All pages must be numbered consecutively, starting with the title page.

■ The **title page** should comprise: title of paper, first name(s) and surname(s) of author(s), location(s), the address to which proofs are to be sent, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the corresponding author.

■ The **Summary** should be informative and completely comprehensible, briefly present the topic, state the scope of the experiments, indicate significant data, and point out major findings and conclusions. Summaries are used by information retrieval systems. The Summary should not exceed 200 words. Standard nomenclature should be used and abbreviations should be avoided or defined. No references should be cited. Immediately following the Summary, up to five Keywords should be supplied; these will be used for indexing purposes.

■ The **Introduction** should be concise and define the objectives of the work in relation to other work done in the same field. It should not give an exhaustive review of the literature.

■ **Materials and methods** should provide sufficient detail to allow the experiments to be reproduced. However, only truly new procedures should be described in detail; previously published procedures should be cited, and important modifications of published procedures should be mentioned briefly. The suppliers of chemicals and equipment should be indicated if this might affect the results. Subheadings may be used. Statistical techniques used must be specified.

■ **Results** should be presented with clarity and precision. The results should be written in the past tense when describing findings in the author's experiments. Previously published findings should be written in the present tense. Results should be explained, but largely without referring to the literature.

■ The **Discussion** should be confined to interpretation of the results (not to recapitulating them), also in light of the pertinent literature on the subject. When appropriate, the Results and Discussion sections can be combined. This will be the case in research notes.

■ **Acknowledgements** should be presented after the Discussion section. Personal acknowledgements should only be made with the permission of the person(s) named.

■ **References.** The list of references should include only works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Unpublished work in preparation, Ph.D. and Masters theses, etc., should be mentioned in the text only, in parentheses. The author(s) must obtain written permission for the citation of a personal communication or other's researchers' unpublished results. References cited in the text should be numbered and placed within square brackets, referring to an alphabetized list at the end of the paper. References should be in the following style:

1. Carr NG, Mann NH (1994) The oceanic cyanobacterial picoplankton. In: Bryant DA (ed) *The molecular biology of cyanobacteria*. Kluwer, Dordrecht, pp 27-48
2. Madigan MT, Martinko JM (2006) *Brock biology of microorganisms*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 11th edn
3. Margulis L, Jorgensen JZ, Dolan S, Kolchinsky R, Rainey FA, Lo S-C (1998) The *Arthromitus* stage of *Bacillus cereus*: intestinal symbionts of animals. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 95:1236-1241

Citation of articles that have appeared in electronic journals is allowed if access to them is unlimited and their URL or DOI is supplied.

Further information

■ **Abbreviations and units.** Abbreviations and symbols should follow the recommendations of the IUPAC-IUB Commission. Information can be obtained at <http://www.chem.qmw.ac.uk/iupac/>. Common abbreviations such as cDNA, NADH and PCR need not to be defined. Non-standard abbreviation should be defined at first mention in the Summary and again in the main body of the text and used consistently thereafter. SI units should be used throughout.

■ **Nomenclature of organisms.** Genus and species names must be in italics. Each genus should be written out in full in the title and at first mention in the text. Thereafter, the genus may be

abbreviated, provided there is no danger of confusion with other genera discussed in the paper. Bacterial names should follow the instructions to authors of the *International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology*. Nomenclature of protists should follow the Handbook of Protocista (Jones and Bartlett, Boston).

■ **Figures and tables.** These should be restricted to the minimum needed to clarify the text; a total number (F + T) of five is recommended. Neither tables nor figures should be used to present results that can be described with a short statement in the text. They also must not be integrated into the text. Figure legends must be typed double-spaced on a separate page and appended to the text. Photographs should be well contrasted and not exceed the printing area (17.6 × 23.6 cm). Magnification of micrographs should be shown by a bar marker. For color illustrations, the authors will be expected to pay the extra costs of 600.00 € per article. Color figures may be accepted for use on the cover of the issue in which the paper will appear. Tables must be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals and submitted separately from the text at the end of the paper. Tables may be edited to permit more compact typesetting. The publisher reserves the right to reduce or enlarge figures and tables.

■ **Article-processing charges.** Publishing a peer-reviewed journal with open access—a policy in the interest of the scientific community worldwide—has costs that the journal partially tries to cover from article-processing charges. Currently many research funding agencies not only allow these expenses to be paid from their grants, but also encourage open access publication. The journal's standard-processing charge is 700.00 €. If a manuscript requires extensive editorial work, an extra charge may be requested. However, the acceptance of a paper will not depend on the author's ability to pay these charges. Individual waiver requests must be done during the submission process and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

■ **Complements.** These papers serve to express or clarify the author's point of view on a microbiological topic of international relevance or to comment on a recent event or a recently published article or book. These papers should not exceed 6 printed pages. References may be cited if necessary.

■ **Book reviews.** Reviews of recent books of special interest in the field of both prokaryotic and eukaryotic microbiology, and the history and sociology of microbiology and science in general are welcome. Please contact the Editorial Office for details.

■ **Proofs.** Proofreading is the responsibility of the author. Only typesetting errors should be corrected at this stage. Corrections of errors that were present in the original manuscript will be subject to additional charges. The corrected page proofs must be returned by the date requested.