

# Author Guidelines

## Submission Preparation Checklist

As part of the submission process, authors must check their submission's compliance with the following items. Submissions will be returned to authors that do not adhere to these guidelines.

- ✓ This submission has not been previously published nor submitted for consideration in another journal.
- ✓ The submission will be uploaded by the CORRESPONDING AUTHOR who is automatically designated as the primary contact in the submission system.
- ✓ DETAILS FOR EACH CONTRIBUTOR: full first, middle name initials (if applicable), and last names, e-mail, academic/research rank, affiliation, country, ORCiDs will be entered online.
- ✓ ORCiD links which are mandatory for each author lead to fully presented profiles of the researchers.
- ✓ The manuscript will be uploaded in the MANUSCRIPT TEMPLATE document [ITEM I].
- ✓ A COVER LETTER will be uploaded summarizing the study's contribution to scientific literature and relating it to previously published work [ITEM II].
- ✓ Figures containing MICROGRAPHS will be supplied as one TIFF file per micrograph [ITEM III].
- ✓ The LICENSE AGREEMENT signed by all authors will be uploaded [ITEM IV].
- ✓ A DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT linking to data deposited in an eligible DATA REPOSITORY will be included [ITEM V].

## SUBMITTING A PAPER

A submission must include:

- > ITEMS I, II, IV, and V. ITEM III is required only for micrographs.
- > [ORCiD links](#) for all authors.

### ITEM I

The **Manuscript Template** WORD document with step-by-step instructions for formatting and presenting a manuscript for the Archives of Biological Sciences must be followed precisely, which is downloaded *here*:

[ABS Manuscript Template](#)

## ITEM II

A Cover Letter relating the study to published work and summarizing its contribution to scientific literature. Information for potential reviewers may be included, including e-mail, affiliation, ORCID, and a brief explanation of why the scientists would be good referees.

## ITEM III

TIFF file per micrograph only

## ITEM IV

The corresponding author must complete and all authors must sign the [License Agreement](#)

## ITEM V

### **The Data Availability Statement linking to deposited data**

The Serbian Biological Society strongly encourages authors to share the research data supporting their published findings. Open data enhances the credibility and impact of a manuscript and reflects our commitment to the principle: “as open as possible, as closed as necessary.” Exceptions to open data sharing may include sensitive information, confidentiality obligations, security risks, personal data protection, or other legitimate constraints. If full open access is not possible, authors must provide restricted access to the extent permitted by legal and ethical considerations. The Data Availability Statement must explain the limitations and reasons for restricted access. Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the editorial office at the time of manuscript submission. Exceptions are granted at the journal’s discretion. Even when an exception is approved, a Data Availability Statement must still be included, specifying which data cannot be shared and why.

**\*For details, please see the information in the Instructions for Authors.**

The Research Data Policy of the *Archives of Biological Sciences* is available here: [About the Journal | Archives of Biological Sciences](#)

## UNSOLICITED SCIENTIFIC REVIEW ARTICLE

A review is valid if authored by a verified expert supported by self-citations of original research. The paper must adhere to the Manuscript Template, with some sections omitted. The submission must include ITEMS I-V, and AI Use Disclosure, with the extent to which AI was used explicitly stated. Tables and figures must be accompanied by appropriate sources cited in the corresponding legends.

## MANUSCRIPT ORGANIZATION

The Manuscript Template WORD document with step-by-step guidelines for presenting a manuscript for the *Archives of Biological Sciences* MUST BE IMPLEMENTED. The Template can be downloaded *here*: [ABS Manuscript Template](#)

### • PAPER DESCRIPTION/HIGHLIGHTS

The **manuscript's FIRST PAGE** is the Paper Description in not more than 100 words.

The purpose of the paper description is to provide an overview of your work, introduce it, show your interest in it, present it to a reading audience, draw attention to it, and motivate readers to engage with it. The paper description is the first contact you have with a potential reader. When published, the paper description will also be posted on the journal's social media.

- What is already known about the topic of your submission?  
Avoid statements about how a process is not well understood. Provide the rationale for the research.
- Explain the design and methods and the experimental model employed in the research.
- Describe specific results. What is new in your work that has not already been reported?
- Indicate the work's broader significance: what does it add to the existing body of knowledge?

### • COVER PAGE

**Title:** must not exceed 200 characters with spaces. Abbreviations should be avoided. The title must be straightforward; avoid a title that is too general, avoid a title that is phrased as a question.

**Authors** must be listed in the following order: first name, middle name initials (if applicable), family name.

**Author affiliations:** Each author must list an associated department, university, organizational affiliation, address, city, and country. **ORCID links are mandatory for every author. They must lead to fully presented profiles of the researcher. ORCIDs are a prerequisite for manuscript consideration.** Do not provide ORCID links in the Cover Page but in the 'Contributors' part in the online system.

**Corresponding author:** The author(s), designated as the corresponding author(s) must provide an email address that will be published if the article is accepted.

The submitting author is automatically designated as the corresponding author in the submission system. A submission must be uploaded by the corresponding author as the primary contact. A paper not submitted by the corresponding author will be rejected before the review stage.

**Preprint (if applicable):** Please state the following “The preprint version of this article was previously published on [*name of pre-print server*] with this DOI: [<https://doi.org/....>].”

- **Abstract**

The abstract is ONE PARAGRAPH, without headings, and must not exceed 200 words. The abstract should present the hypothesis, avoiding statements about how a process is not well understood; do not use words that do not add meaning and are difficult to verify (novelty claims). Lay out the objectives of the study, the experimental approach, the major results, and the conclusion. The last sentence of the abstract should provide a strong summary statement of the study. Unexplained abbreviations should be avoided.

**Keywords:** Five keywords for indexing should be provided after the abstract that will be used for indexing purposes. Keywords that are too general and have multiple concepts should be avoided.

**Abbreviations:** Do not use uncommon abbreviations and acronyms in the manuscript title, abstract, or paper description. The full name must be given on first use and only once in full, with the abbreviation or acronym in parentheses; the acronym should be used consistently thereafter.

- **INTRODUCTION**

The introduction should provide a clear and balanced, concise, but sufficiently informative overview of selected recent literature relevant to the topic of the manuscript, a description of the problem addressed in the manuscript and its significance, and where appropriate, controversial and diverging hypotheses. State what the contribution is going to be, conclude with the aim of the work and whether it was achieved.

Note that references are numbered in order of appearance and indicated by a numeral or numerals in square brackets: [1] or [2,3], or [4-6].

- **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The Materials and Methods section must be divided into appropriate subheadings.

**Ethics statement**

The ethics statement must be declared under the first subheading of the Materials and Methods section. Any manuscript submitted without a suitable ethics statement will be returned to the authors and will not be considered further until an appropriate and explicit statement is presented.

- **Studies involving animals (live vertebrates)** must be performed in strict accordance with internationally accepted standards and regulations. Authors must refer to the approval obtained from their Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or equivalent Institutional Ethics Committee.
- **Studies involving human participants.** The authors should confirm that the research was conducted per the principles embodied in the Declaration of Helsinki and in

accordance with local statutory requirements. Authors must present an Institutional Review Board (IRB) statement. Authors must identify the committee approving the experiments and include with their submission a statement confirming that Informed Consent was obtained from all subjects.

### **Nomenclature**

Scientific names of plant and animal species: A species name is written in italics. It consists of two words: the genus name, which is always capitalized, and the species epithet, which is never capitalized. Once a full scientific name has been used, the genus name may be abbreviated by its first letter. Names of families, orders, classes, phyla and kingdoms are capitalized but not italicized. For more information, please refer to <http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/frank/kiss/kiss6.htm>. Gene symbols should be italicized, gene names that are written out in full are not italicized, protein products of the loci are not italicized. Experimental groups must not be presented as a bulleted list but in one paragraph. Apply SI Unit rules and style conventions. The International System of Units (SI) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) rules for naming organic and inorganic compounds should be adhered to. Note that the parts-per notation is a set of pseudo units to describe small values of miscellaneous dimensionless quantities, e.g. mole fraction or mass fraction. This notation is not part of the SI system, and its meaning is ambiguous. Use SI-compliant expression as an alternative.

### **Units of measurement format**

The SI prescribes inserting a space between a number and a unit of measurement and between units in compound units, but never between a prefix and a base unit (5.0 cm, not 5.0cm or 5.0 c m. However, temperatures should be written without a space (e.g., 20°C), as should the percent symbol % which is written without a space (10% not 10 %) because % is not an SI unit. The liter (liter) should be written using an uppercase “L”. Seconds are written as “s” not “sec”, hours are written as “h” not “hrs”, days are written as “days” not “d”. Centrifugation: express the acceleration applied to the sample in units of gravity or “×g”, not in rpm. Apply scientific rules for the use of space. The decimal mark is a dot (.), not a decimal comma. Numbers between –1 and +1 require a leading zero (0.01, not .01). The probability value or P is uppercase and not italicized, and there is no hyphen between “P” and “value”. All numbers should be given as numerals (e.g., “In 2 previous studies...”, “...4<sup>th</sup> group”, etc.). Information related to the Materials and Methods section, such as a list of primers, specialized methods, calculations, sites, localities, etc., must be either incorporated in the appropriate section in the text (not as an inserted table) or presented as Supplementary Material (see *below*).

## **• RESULTS**

The results must not be combined in a Results and Discussion section. The Results section should be divided into subheadings conveying information about the findings. Reuse the subheadings of the results section in the figure legends to make the relationship clear.

The results section should begin by restating the purpose of the research so that readers can focus on the article. A section should conclude with a short paragraph summarizing the key outcome(s).

Every table/figure/plate must be considered and appropriately analyzed. Related findings must be presented in one figure comprised of several sub-figures, labeled A, B, C, etc., and described under one figure legend.

## • DISCUSSION

The discussion section must not include subheadings.

The discussion should provide an interpretation of the results. While the discussion section should be written at a high academic level, authors should avoid overloading this section with excessive citations and lengthy reinterpretations of related literature and must focus on their findings. Authors should avoid over-interpretation of data or drawing conclusions for which they have not provided sufficient experimental proof.

Do not refer to specific (numbered) tables or figures mentioned in the results section. If a novel mechanism, model, or hypothesis is presented in the last figure and is discussed, specific figure mention is allowed.

## • CONCLUSIONS

This section is optional, however, if the Discussion section is long and complex, the conclusions should provide a summary of the presented findings.

- **Funding:** All funding sources must be fully acknowledged; provide grant support details. If funding was not received, it should be stated that “The author(s) received no specific funding for this work.”
- **Acknowledgments:** In this section, you can acknowledge any support given not covered by the author’s contribution or funding sections. This may include administrative and technical support, or donations in kind (e.g., materials used for experiments).
- **Author contributions:** This must include a statement of the different responsibilities that specify the contribution of every author. A short paragraph specifying their contributions must be provided for research articles with several authors. The following statements should be used “Conceptualization, XX, and YY; methodology, XX; software, XX; validation, XX, YY, and ZZ; formal analysis, XX; investigation, XX; resources, XX; data curation, XX; writing - original draft preparation, XX; writing - review and editing, XX; visualization, XX; supervision, XX; project administration, XX; funding acquisition, YY. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of

the manuscript.” Authorship must be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the work reported.

- **Conflict of interest disclosure:** Authors should describe any potential conflicts of interest.
- **Data Availability Statement:** The Serbian Biological Society strongly encourages authors to share the research data that support their published findings. Making data openly available enhances the credibility and impact of a manuscript and aligns with our commitment to the principle *as open as possible, and as closed as necessary*. If the data is not available in a publicly accessible repository, a RESEARCH DATASET must be provided for inclusion in the journal’s online supplementary material.

Exceptions to data openness include sensitive data, confidentiality obligations, security concerns, protection of personal data, and other legitimate constraints. If full open access cannot be granted, authors must provide restricted access to the data to the extent their legal and ethical obligations allow.

**Authors must include a Data Availability Statement linking to deposited data; if the data is not openly available, the statement must explain why.**

### Suggested \*Data Availability Statements

- **For data available in a publicly accessible repository:**

"The data presented in this study are openly available in: [*repository name (e.g., FigShare), DOI, handle or other persistent identifier, reference number*]."

- **For a raw research dataset\*:**

"The raw data underlying this article is available as an online supplementary research dataset: [*persistent link in the article*]"

**\*The (online) supplementary research dataset/data report** must be formatted and presented per the journal's instructions for authors - it must NOT be presented as an unorganized data collection. Tables in a data report file, starting with Raw Table S1, must be described in the table title and caption, and associated in an accompanying legend with the final Tables/Figures in the manuscript. Quantified numerical data for each sample used for statistical analyses and mathematical proof of results must be shown.

Figures of replicates for experiments in which representative data in the main text and other essential background information that would disrupt the flow of the main text but remain crucial to understanding and reproducing the research shown should be provided, starting with Raw Fig. S1. Images for entire membranes of western blotting/electrophoretic profiles with size markers and staining must be shown. Raw dot and gel images must be clearly labeled to identify the loading order, the identity of the experimental samples, and the molecular weight

markers. The annotation should not obscure background bands. Inappropriate image manipulation must be avoided. Methods used to capture and analyze the image must be explained.

➤ **If data cannot be shared for ethical/privacy reasons:**

"The data underlying this article is available as an online supplementary research dataset:  
[*persistent link in the article*]

> Once all patient data have been fully anonymized following ethical and legal standards, the data must be organized in a clear, well-documented format. Each data point should be traceable to an anonymized subject identifier, and the dataset must include sufficient metadata to ensure reproducibility and to support accurate analysis and interpretation.

➤ **For a Review Article when no new data are associated with the article:**

"No new data were generated or analyzed supporting this research".

For more information, please read the [Research Data Policy](#)

**A research dataset should be deposited in a FAIR-compliant repository**—institutional, disciplinary, or general-purpose, and a **persistent link will be included in the article**.

To find a suitable repository, please search the [FAIRsharing Databases Registry](#).

## • REFERENCES

The inclusion of more than 60 references must be avoided.

The ABS uses the Vancouver Citation Style outlined in the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) sample references. References must be listed at the end of the manuscript and numbered in the order they appear in the text.

### Formatting

In the text, citations must be indicated by the reference number in square brackets [...]. The numbers corresponding to references in the REFERENCES section must not be in brackets. More than two references in the numerical sequence should not be written one after another in sequence but as [1-3], etc. Use an En Dash between page numbers, "120-130" not an Em Dash, "120—130." Avoid writing the name(s) of the author(s) followed by the reference number. Style the sentence so that only the reference number is stated. Journal name abbreviations must be those found in NCBI databases:

[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>].

References with more than three authors must not be shortened to "et al." – all authors must be listed. Authors must not cite MSc theses, posters presented at scientific meetings, abstracts, unavailable and unpublished data, personal communications, or manuscripts that have been submitted but have not yet been accepted. Avoid the use of expressions such as



“manuscript submitted”, “unpublished work”, as well as “data not shown”. If an article is submitted to a journal and also publicly available as a pre-print, the pre-print may be cited. References for accepted articles may be included as “in the press”, with the authors, the title of the work, the journal, and the DOI provided in the reference list.

The complete guide to the Vancouver Style is available in this online book: Citing Medicine

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=citmed.TOC&depth=2>

We suggest using Mendeley, a free reference manager ([www.mendeley.com](http://www.mendeley.com)), or a bibliography software package, such as EndNote, ReferenceManager or Zotero to avoid typing mistakes and duplicated references. Include the digital object identifier (DOI) for all references where available. If Mendeley is used, copy this URL: <https://csl.mendeley.com/styles/90452301/ABS> and paste it into your reference manager to use it.

- **DATA – Tables and Figures**

The article should not contain more than a combination of EIGHT DEFINITIVE tables and/or complete figures.

**Tables and figures must only contain novel research findings obtained in the study – new and original discoveries or insights made through your scientific research – the essential contribution of your research.** Information auxiliary to the article content must be presented under the optional section designated Supplementary Material.

- **Tables**

Authors must provide editable tables, written in WORD: use the Microsoft Word Table function to make tables. Format the tables with Word's Table function. Do not use tabs or spaces to create a table. Tables should be black and white, and rows and columns should not be shaded. Table fonts are in Unicode Times New Roman, font size 10 pt, single-spaced. Consistence between the text and details in the tables (e.g. abbreviations, group names, treatment names, units of measurement, etc.) must be ensured. THE DECIMAL MARK IS A DOT (.), NOT A DECIMAL COMMA.

Tables should have a clear, self-explanatory TITLE, and a short description explaining the table without reference to the text. The table title and description must be above the table. Below the table is the table CAPTION, which should provide (i) definitions of the abbreviations and (ii) information on the applied statistical procedures. EACH TABLE MUST BE SEPARATED BY PAGE BREAKS so that only one complete table is presented on one page (unless the table is very long).

- **Figures**

Results must be presented concisely. Avoid multiple redundant figure legends. Combine graphs that share a common legend into a single figure. When a composite

figure is comprised of different plates labeled A, B, C, etc. (graphs, line drawings, micrographs, electropherograms, images of electrophoretic gels, western blots, etc.), it must be presented as ONE COMPLETE FIGURE that contains different plates, not as a figure comprised of several smaller independent plates. The number of the figure should be referred to in the WORD document as “Fig. ...”, numbered consecutively in the order in which it is referred to in the Results section.

- **Figures when they are line drawings.**

Authors can provide graphs as an Excel graphic copied in the manuscript or Word Chart. These figures should not be supplied as TIFF files. Data presented on graphs must include error bars. The graph should be 2D in black and white and patterned horizontally or diagonally striped bars as required. Ensure that the labels of the variables in the X- and Y-axes in graphs comply with the unit format described above. Ensure font consistency between the text in the figures: all label fonts in all graphs must be legible and uniformly presented in the same font type and size depending on the location in the graph. Ensure consistency between the text and details in the figures (abbreviations, group names, treatment names, units of measurement). Figure fonts are in Unicode Times New Roman, font size 10 pts, single-spaced. The decimal mark is a dot (.), not a decimal comma. Do not use faint lines and/or lettering and check that all lines and lettering within the figures are legible.

- **Figures when they are IMAGES or contain images IN COMPOSITE FIGURES.**

Image figures must be embedded in the manuscript after the list of figure legends and uploaded as TIFF files.

When a complex figure comprises different plates, labeled A, B, etc. (e.g., a composite figure comprised of micrographs), it must also be uploaded as ONE figure file containing the different plates. Every image must contain clear labels: size indicators, pointers to major structural compartments, etc. The lettering in the illustrations should be of sufficient size to allow for size reduction. Do not include the figure number, title, or caption in the figure TIFF file.

- **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

Information supplementing the main content should be presented in the optional **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL** section embedded at the end of the manuscript. Every supplemental table and figure must be properly labeled and referenced in the manuscript, starting with Supplementary Table S1/Supplementary Fig. S1.

**A Research Dataset** should be deposited in a FAIR-compliant repository—institutional, disciplinary, or general-purpose, and a persistent link will be included in this part of the paper.

If you need help finding a suitable repository, search the  
[https://fairsharing.org/search?fairsharingRegistry=Database.](https://fairsharing.org/search?fairsharingRegistry=Database)