Before you start

Molecular Plant Pathology publishes a variety of article types from all areas of molecular plant pathology including research on diseases caused by fungi, oomycetes, viruses, nematodes, bacteria, insects, parasitic plants and other organisms. The Editor-in-Chief particularly welcomes submissions that advance our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of disease or disease management. This includes molecular analyses of pathogens, pathogen evolution, host responses to plant pathogens or the interaction of pathogens, the environment and host plants spanning the spectrum between saprotrophic and mutualistic interactions.

Molecular Plant Pathology does not publish purely descriptive profiling studies, for example RNA-Seq or transcriptomics – to be considered for publication, manuscripts of this type should include functional studies and provide mechanistic or novel insights that advance our understanding.

Manuscripts dealing with genes or processes known to be associated with core or multiple biological processes should clearly indicate the rationale and or evidence for why such genes or processes were selected for study in the context of molecular plant pathology, host–pathogen interactions and/or disease. Manuscripts lacking this context are not appropriate for Molecular Plant Pathology.

Only papers written in English are accepted. They must not be under consideration, or accepted, for publication elsewhere.

Molecular Plant Pathology will consider for review articles previously available as preprints. Authors are requested to update any prepublication versions with a link to the final published article. Authors may also post the final published version of the article immediately after publication.

Molecular Plant Pathology is an Open Access journal. Molecular Plant Pathology follows the guidelines set out by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). Further information is available at http://publicationethics.org/.

For any questions not answered in these guidelines, please contact:

- Editorial Office (for suitability, article format, submission process, peer review) mpp@bspp.org.uk
- Production Editor (for copyright, typesetting and online publication) mpp@wiley.com
### Article types

*Molecular Plant Pathology* publishes a range of article types as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Summary words</th>
<th>Article words&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Figures</th>
<th>Tables</th>
<th>Supp Info</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original Article</td>
<td>A report of original research addressing a specific research question, with the methods used, the results of the research, and conclusions drawn from the research</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>7000</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Communication</td>
<td>A short report of original research</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Advance</td>
<td>A forum for innovative techniques and resources</td>
<td>As Original Article or Short Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>A systematic review of the published literature addressing a specific research question, including an exhaustive search of the literature to date; or a narrative review discussing a particular topic</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>7000</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Microreview</td>
<td>A brief discussion of current research</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>4000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathogen Profile</td>
<td>An overview of the latest research on a particular pathogen</td>
<td>400</td>
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<td>A brief overview of a topical issue, a purely personal piece intended to prompt discussion and debate within the scientific community</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Response Piece</td>
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<td>Editorial</td>
<td>A message from one of our Editors</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Discouraged</td>
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</table>

<sup>a</sup>Includes Summary, Introduction, Results, Discussion, Experimental Procedures, Acknowledgements, Table and Figure Legends (but not content); excludes Title Page, Running Header, Table and Figure content, References and Supporting Information. **Please provide a word count total on the title page.**

Authors wishing to submit a Review, Microreview or Opinion Piece should contact the Editor-in-Chief to discuss the format and content further.

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3. Final approval of the version to be published; and
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Acquisition of funding, the collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, by itself, does not justify authorship.

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Recognizing the importance of research transparency and data sharing to cumulative research, Molecular Plant Pathology encourages the following Open Research practices.

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Submission to Molecular Plant Pathology is on the understanding that materials described will be made available upon request. If there are any restrictions on the sharing of materials, these must be stated in both the covering letter and Experimental Procedures. Any intellectual property (IP) restrictions must also be made clear.
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increase the visibility and transparency of their research.

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Original Article format

Please submit the manuscript Main Text file, each Table, each Figure and each Supporting Information item as individual files.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>File type</th>
<th>Font</th>
<th>Line spacing</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Main Text</td>
<td>.DOC, .DOCX, .RTF</td>
<td>Any standard</td>
<td>Double-spaced</td>
<td>Line numbering is helpful</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Main Text**

The Main Text of an Original Article uses the order:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Introduction
- Results
- Discussion
- Experimental Procedures
- Acknowledgements
- Data Availability Statement
- References
- Supporting Information legends
- Figure legends

**Title page**

- Title informative and not more than 30 words
- Authors listed
- Addresses at which the work was carried out after all the names
- The present addresses of the authors, if different from the above, should appear in a footnote
- Author for correspondence indicated by an asterisk with an e-mail address provided (one author only)
- Keywords – provide up to 7
- Word count of article (Summary, Introduction, Results, Discussion, Experimental Procedures, Acknowledgements, Table and Figure Legends)

**Abstract**

- Indicate why and how the work was done, the results and conclusions
- 250 words or less
Introduction

- Describe, succinctly, the current state of work in the relevant field
- Describe the reasons for carrying out the experiments
- Give a clear statement of the objectives and hypotheses being tested

Results

- Results should be presented in an orderly fashion
- Make use of tables and figures where necessary and without duplication
- Data tables and figure should include statistical metrics as appropriate

Discussion

- Discussion can be combined with the Results or kept separate
- Subheadings can be used if they clarify the text
- Focus on the work presented and its relationship with other relevant published work
- It should not digress widely into general discussion of a research area, or into excessive speculation

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- Sufficient information must be given in this section to allow the reader to understand the experimental design and statistical methods used in the data analysis. All experiments should have adequate replication and, where relevant, should have been repeated for confirmation
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- Commercial equipment and products used in experiments should name the product and manufacturer’s name and location (on first occurrence only; city, state if within the USA; city, country if outside the USA)
- State the methods used and ensure that the analysis method chosen is appropriate for the data
- Appropriate controls must be identified
- Microarray data should comply with the MIAME reporting recommendations http://fged.org/projects/miame/

Acknowledgements

- All sources of funding should be listed
- All contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed (e.g. technical help, data analysis, writing assistance or general support)
- Provide details of any conflict of interest

Data Availability Statement

- Presence or absence of shared data
- Repository name and data reference number, URL, DOI, if data shared
- Example statements are shown below
### Data Availability Statement in text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Data Availability Statement in text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data openly available in a public repository that issues datasets with DOIs</td>
<td>The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in [repository name e.g. “figshare”] at <a href="http://doi.org/%5Bdoi">http://doi.org/[doi</a>], reference number [reference number].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data openly available in a public repository that does not issue DOIs</td>
<td>The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in [repository name] at [URL], reference number [reference number].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data derived from public domain resources</td>
<td>The data that support the findings of this study are available in [repository name] at [URL/DOI], reference number [reference number]. These data were derived from the following resources available in the public domain: [list resources and URLs]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embargo on data due to commercial restrictions</td>
<td>The data that support the findings will be available in [repository name] at [URL / DOI link] following an embargo from the date of publication to allow for commercialization of research findings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data available on request due to privacy/ethical restrictions</td>
<td>The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data subject to third party restrictions</td>
<td>The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party]. Restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for this study. Data are available [from the authors / at URL] with the permission of [third party].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data available on request from the authors</td>
<td>The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data sharing not applicable – no new data generated</td>
<td>Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Author elects to not share data</td>
<td>Research data are not shared.</td>
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### References

- Use of a tool such as EndNote, Mendeley, ReadCube or Zotero is recommended (e.g. http://endnote.com/downloads/styles)
- In the text, cite by author and date; place multiple citations in chronological order
  - If >1 citation for a date, then place these citations in alphabetical order (e.g., Ruppel, 1991; Hanson and Hill, 2004a; 2004b; Windels et al., 2004)
- In the References section, place in author alphabetical order
Lowercase particles are listed under the letter of the proper name but uppercase particles under the latter of the particle (e.g., da Silva under “S” but Von Trapp under “V”)

- Final reference in list is “[dataset]”, to provide details of data indicated in Data Availability Statement
- If possible, please try to use the examples below for style (‘Harvard style’)

<table>
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<th>Example in main text</th>
<th>Example in References section</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>(A. Scientist, Research Institute, City, Country, date, personal communication)</td>
<td>Not included</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of Reference</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>Title and Details</td>
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Authors must have written permission from colleagues to include their work as a personal communication and provide this as a ‘Other files for information’ file to be available to the editor.

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- Self-explanatory with an appropriate legend without abbreviations
- Identify tables using a number, e.g. Table 2
- Mention tables in the text in numerical order (Table 1, then Table 2 etc.)
- Use superscript lower case letters for footnotes, e.g. a, b and c
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- Not embedded as an image

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- Identify figures using a number, e.g. Figure 2
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Other article type formats

Short Communication format
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The Main Text of a Short Communication uses the order:

- Title page
- Abstract
- Text (no subheadings)
- Acknowledgments
- Data Availability Statement
- References
- Supporting Information legends
- Figure legends

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- References
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• Host range
• Disease symptoms
• Disease control
• Useful websites
• Sections as appropriate to guide the reader (usually include an Introduction)
• Acknowledgements
• References
• Supporting Information legends
• Figure legends

**Opinion Piece and Response Piece format**

An Opinion Piece is a brief overview of a topical issue; it is purely personal text intended to prompt discussion and debate within the scientific community, written in an ‘unstructured’ style (i.e. subheadings are discouraged).

A Response Piece is a reply to a published Opinion Piece.

- No abstract
- No subheadings
- Figures and tables are discouraged
- Maximum of 10 references

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This is a short article (up to a page in print) from one of our editors. Editorials do not use subheadings or references.

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<th>Permissions</th>
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<tr>
<td>✫ Ask co-author(s) if there are any conflicts of interest to declare (include in the cover letter and Acknowledgements)</td>
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14
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- Run the ‘spell checker’ and ‘grammar checker’ on your manuscript
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- Check all references mentioned in the text are provided in the Reference list, and vice versa
- Separate Figure files and Table files from the Main Text
- Main Text file is editable (e.g. .DOCX), not a .PDF
- Figure legends and Supporting Information legends (tables, figures, other file types) are included in the Main Text file at the end
- Total size of all files is less than 1.5 MB

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- Voucher cultures and specimens deposited in recognized collections
- Accession numbers obtained for nucleotide or protein sequences
- TreeBASE number obtained for phylogenetic data
- If you cite papers ‘in press’ that are not yet publicly available with a DOI, provide a copy as ‘Other files for information’

**Data**

- Datasets archived in publicly accessible repository if possible
- Data Availability Statement in text

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4. Authors (names and e-mail addresses)
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6. Details (no. of figures/tables/words etc. and your cover letter)
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Submissions that are out of scope may be rejected without external peer review.

The Editor-in-Chief will appoint a Senior Editor closest to the field of interest to handle the review process. Alternatively, you can nominate a Senior Editor, in which case the covering letter should be addressed to them. The Senior Editor will generally appoint two anonymous reviewers to report on the suitability for publication. You may suggest the names of potential reviewers – these should not be recent collaborators. If there are people that you would prefer not to be used as reviewers, please provide your (confidential) reasons in the cover letter. The editors reserve the right not to choose your suggested reviewers.

The reviewer reports are not published.

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You and your co-authors can follow the progress of your manuscript at any time by checking its status updates in your respective Author Centre(s) at
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