

# Molecular Plant Pathology



Open Access

## Author Guidelines for Molecular Plant Pathology

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## 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](mailto:mpp@bspp.org.uk)
- Production Editor (for copyright, typesetting and online publication) [mpp@wiley.com](mailto:mpp@wiley.com)

## Article types

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

Article type	Description	Summary words	Article words <sup>a</sup>	Figures	Tables	Supp Info
Original Article	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	250	7000	8	4	No limit
Short Communication	A short report of original research	200	3500	4	2	No limit
Technical Advance	A forum for innovative techniques and resources	As Original Article or Short Communication				
Review	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	250	7000	4	2	No limit
Microreview	A brief discussion of current research	250	4000	2	2	No limit
Pathogen Profile	An overview of the latest research on a particular pathogen	400	7000	4	2	No limit
Opinion Piece	A brief overview of a topical issue, a purely personal piece intended to prompt discussion and debate within the scientific community	None	3000	Discouraged		No limit
Response Piece	A response to an Opinion Piece	As Opinion Piece				
Editorial	A message from one of our Editors	None	1000	Discouraged		

<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.

Authors wishing to submit a Pathogen Profile should contact the Pathogen Profile Editor to discuss the format and content further.

## Costs to authors

Molecular Plant Pathology is an Open Access journal and charges an article processing charge (APC).

Submission:	No charge
Page charges:	No charge
Figures charges	No charge
Use of colour:	No charge
Open Access APC:	US\$ 2340   £1750   €1980
Offprints:	Free PDF, but charge for printed offprints if chosen

## Authorship

All authors must qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify must be listed. Authorship should be based only on

1. Substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; **and**
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; **and**
3. Final approval of the version to be published; **and**
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Acquisition of funding, the collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, by itself, does not justify authorship.

The **Submitting Author** is the person who submits (uploads) the manuscript. All communications about the review process will be sent to this person, who is responsible for keeping co-authors informed of progress or queries from editors.

The **Corresponding Author** is the person whose name and address appear on the published paper. This person is responsible for post-acceptance license signing, proof approval, answering any queries from readers of the journal and is the person who qualifies for funding/discounts/waivers. *Molecular Plant Pathology* names only one Corresponding Author on papers.

The Submitting and Corresponding Authors can be the same person, or two different co-authors.

*Molecular Plant Pathology* requires the Submitting Author (only) to provide their ORCID ID when submitting a manuscript (this is a free, unique and persistent identifier for researchers, <http://orcid.org/>).

In accordance with [Wiley's Best Practice Guidelines on Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics](#) and the [Committee on Publication Ethics' guidance](#), *Molecular Plant Pathology* will allow authors to correct authorship on a submitted, accepted, or published article if a valid reason exists to do so. All authors – including those to be added or removed – must agree to any proposed change. To request a change to the author list, please complete the [Request for Changes to a Journal Article Author List Form](#) and contact either the journal's editorial or production office, depending on the status of the article. Authorship changes will not be considered without a fully completed Author Change form. [Correcting the authorship is different from changing an author's name; the relevant policy for that can be found in [Wiley's Best](#)

[Practice Guidelines](#) under “Author name changes after publication.”]

## Open Science initiatives

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

### Availability of scientific material

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.

### Data sharing and data accessibility

*Molecular Plant Pathology* expects that data supporting the results in the paper will be archived in an appropriate public repository. A full description of the policy is given at [Wiley Author Services](#). Authors are required to provide a Data Availability Statement to confirm the presence or absence of shared data. Sample statements are available [here](#).

Sequence data should be submitted to any of the 3 major databases (DDJB/EMBL/GenBank). Papers containing original amino acid sequences must supply UniProt/Swiss-Prot accession numbers. Authors are encouraged to deposit phylogenetic trees and data used to generate them in TreeBASE ([treebase.org](http://treebase.org)). Proteomics and large -omics datasets should be submitted to an appropriate public database such as PRIDE using best-accepted standard formats.

If you have shared data, the Data Availability Statement will describe how the data can be accessed, and include a persistent identifier (e.g. a DOI for the data, or an accession number) from the repository where you shared the data. The repository that you choose should offer you guaranteed preservation (e.g. the registry of research data repositories at <https://www.re3data.org/>) and should help make it findable, accessible, interoperable and re-useable. Whenever possible the scripts and other artefacts used to generate the analyses presented in the paper should also be publicly archived.

If shared data are not in a repository but are available by application, then the Data Availability Statement must include who (e.g. corresponding author) to contact to request access to the data.

If sharing data compromises ethical standards or legal requirements (e.g. to protect confidential or proprietary information) then authors are not expected to share it. If you cannot share the data described in your manuscript, or do not intend to share the data, then you must still provide the appropriate Data Availability Statement (“Research data are not shared”).

### Open Research badges

In partnership with the non-profit Center for Open Science (COS), *Molecular Plant Pathology* offers all submitting authors access to the Open Data Research Badge, recognizing their contributions to the Open Research movement:

The **Open Data Badge** recognizes researchers who make their data publicly available, providing sufficient description of the data to allow researchers to reproduce research findings of published research studies. An example of a qualifying public, open-

access database for data sharing is the Open Science Framework repository. Numerous other data-sharing repositories are available through various Dataverse networks (e.g., <http://dataverse.org>) and hundreds of other databases available through the Registry of Research Data Repositories (<http://www.re3data.org>). There are, of course, circumstances in which it is not possible or advisable to share data publicly. For example, there are cases in which sharing participant data could violate confidentiality. In these cases, the authors may provide an explanation of such circumstances in the Alternative Note section of the disclosure form. The information the authors provide will be included in the article's Open Research note.

Authors will have an opportunity at the time of manuscript submission and at the time of acceptance to inform themselves of this initiative and to determine whether they wish to participate. Applying and qualifying for the Open Data Badge is not a requirement for publishing with *Molecular Plant Pathology*, but the badges are further incentive for authors to participate in the Open Research movement and thus to increase the visibility and transparency of their research.

More information about the Open Research Badges is available from the Open Science Framework [wiki](#).

### **Conflict of interest**

*Molecular Plant Pathology* requires that all authors disclose any potential sources of conflict of interest. Any interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, that might be perceived as influencing an author's objectivity is considered a potential source of conflict of interest. These must be disclosed when directly relevant or indirectly related to the work that the authors describe in their manuscript. Potential sources of conflict of interest include but are not limited to patent or stock ownership, membership of a company board of directors, membership of an advisory board or committee for a company, and consultancy for or receipt of speaker's fees from a company. The existence of a conflict of interest does not preclude publication in this journal.

If the authors have no conflict of interest to declare, they must also state this at submission. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to review this policy with all authors and to collectively list in the cover letter (if applicable) to the Senior Editor, in the manuscript (in the Acknowledgments section), and in the online submission system ALL pertinent commercial and other relationships.

### **Ethics of experimentation**

In cases where animals or harmful substances have been used for the research, the Journal will only accept papers in which there is evidence that this work has been conducted ethically.

### **Plagiarism**

Submitted manuscripts may be processed through software to detect plagiarism (the unreferenced copying of published and unpublished ideas, writing or illustrations in the same or a different language). In submitting your manuscript you accept that it may be screened against previously published literature. Plagiarized manuscripts will be rejected immediately.

### **Image integrity**

Please follow best practice for the preparation of manuscript figures.

1. Splicing together of separate images to present them as a composite image is not acceptable. Wherever multiple images belonging to different source micrographs, or gel blots, or photographs are grouped together, please add

clear dividing space or dividing lines between separate images and indicate in the legend where and what the images represent.

2. In instances where specific lanes are removed from gel images, or marker lanes added to a gel image, this should be made clear in the image by adding clear dividing space or dividing lines between separate images and indicating in the legend where and what the images represent.
3. Removal, addition, alteration, enhancement, or obstruction of any particular feature within an image is not acceptable. This is also applicable for features that are part of the background of an image. Please do not alter/clean the background of an image for presentational purpose.
4. Gel blot images with extreme adjustments to contrast (white background) are not acceptable. In the interest of transparency, please use original and unedited gel blot images in the manuscript figures.
5. Linear adjustments made to the image as a whole are acceptable, if they do not misrepresent the originally captured information in the image. Selective, non-linear adjustments to only parts of the image are not acceptable.
6. Re-use of an entire image or part of an image (e.g., loading controls or marker lanes) in the same figure or multiple figures within the manuscript is acceptable only when clearly stated and justified in the figure legend or methods section of the manuscript.
7. Images from previously published articles (e.g., loading controls or marker lanes) should not be re-used.

Figures may be checked for image manipulation using image analysis software.

### Article preparation support

[Wiley Editing Services](#) offers expert help with English Language Editing, as well as translation, manuscript formatting, figure illustration, figure formatting, and graphical abstract design – so you can submit your manuscript with confidence.

Also, check out our resources for [Preparing Your Article](#) for general guidance about writing and preparing your manuscript.

### Original Article format

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

File	File type	Font	Line spacing	More information
Main Text	.DOC, .DOCX, .RTF	Any standard	Double-spaced	Line numbering is helpful
Table (1 table per file)	.DOC, .DOCX, .RTF	Any standard		Put legend with Table
Figure (1 figure per file)	.EPS, .JPG, .PDF, .TIF	Helvetica 8 point if possible		Full page size 17 cm (wide) × 22 cm Half-page size 8 cm wide Put legend at end of Main Text file

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Supporting Information	Any	Any	Put legend in Supp Info file AND at end of Main Text file
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## 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
- Corresponding author 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

## Experimental procedures

- 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
- Système International (SI) units are preferred. Others should be related to SI units at the first mention
- 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

Availability	Data Availability Statement in text
Data openly available in a public repository that issues datasets with DOIs	The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in [repository name e.g "figshare"] at <a href="http://doi.org/[doi]">http://doi.org/[doi]</a> , reference number [reference number].
Data openly available in a public repository that does not issue DOIs	The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in [repository name] at [URL], reference number [reference number].

Data derived from public domain resources	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]
Embargo on data due to commercial restrictions	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.
Data available on request due to privacy/ethical restrictions	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.
Data subject to third party restrictions	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].
Data available on request from the authors	The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.
Data sharing not applicable – no new data generated	Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.
Author elects to not share data	Research data are not shared.

## 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 author alphabetical order
  - If >1 citation for an author, then place these citations in chronological order (e.g., Hanson & Hill, 2012, 2014; Ruppel, 1991; 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")
- If possible, please try to use the examples below for style ('Harvard style')

Type	Example in main text	Example in References section
Unpublished data <sup>a</sup>	(A. Scientist, Research Institute, City, Country, date, personal communication)	Not included
Preprint journal article	Haueisen et al. (2017)	Haueisen, J., Möller, M., Eschenbrenner, C.J., Grandaubert, J., Seybold, H., Adamiak, H. et al. (2017) Extremely flexible infection programs in a fungal plant pathogen. <i>bioRxiv</i> . [Preprint] Available at: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1101/229997">https://doi.org/10.1101/229997</a> . [Accessed 23 July 2018].
Work fully accepted and in press <sup>b</sup>	Freer-Smith and Webber (2016)	Freer-Smith P.H. & Webber, J.F. (2016) Tree pests and diseases: the threat to biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services. <i>Biodiversity and Conservation</i> . doi: 10.1007/s10531-015-1019-0.
Journal article, single author	Bebber (2015)	Bebber, D.P. (2015) Range-expanding pests and pathogens in a warming world. <i>Annual Review of Phytopathology</i> , 53, 335–356.
Journal article, 2 authors	Yadeta and Thomma (2013)	Yadeta, K.A. & Thomma, B.P.H.J. (2013) The xylem as battleground for plant hosts and vascular wilt pathogens. <i>Frontiers in Plant Science</i> , 4, 97.
Journal article, 3–6 authors	Zadoks et al. (1974)	Zadoks, J.C., Chang, T.T. & Konzak, C.F. (1974) A decimal code for the growth stages of cereals. <i>Weeds Research</i> , 14, 415–421.
Journal article, 7 authors or more	Siah et al. (2010)	Siah, A., Deweer, C., Duyme, F., Sanssené, J., Durand, R., Halama, P. et al. (2010) Correlation of in planta endo- $\beta$ -1,4-xylanase activity with the necrotrophic phase of the hemibiotrophic fungus <i>Mycosphaerella graminicola</i> . <i>Plant Pathology</i> , 59, 661–670.
Book (whole), 1–6 authors	Campbell and Madden (1990)	Campbell, C.L. & Madden, L.V. (1990) <i>Introduction to Plant Disease Epidemiology</i> . New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.
Book (whole), 7 authors or more	Houghton et al. (2001)	Houghton, J.T., Ding, Y., Griggs, D.J., Noguer, M., van der Linden, P.J., Dai, X. et al. (2001) <i>Climate Change 2001: The Scientific Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Book (part) <sup>c</sup> <sub>SEP</sub>	Hall and MacHardy (1981)	Hall, R. and MacHardy, W.E. (1981) Water relations. In: Mace, M.E., Bell, A.A. and Beckman, C.H. (Eds.) <i>Fungal Wilt Diseases of Plants</i> . New York, NY: Academic Press, pp. 255–298.
Conference proceedings (published) <sup>c</sup> <sub>SEP</sub>	McIntosh (1992)	McIntosh R.A. (1992) Catalogues of gene symbols for wheat. In: Miller, T.E. and Koebner, R.M. (Eds.) <i>Proceedings of the Seventh International Wheat Genetics Symposium</i> , 13–19 July 1987, Cambridge, UK. Cambridge: IPSR. pp. 1225–1323.

Report	Leatherwood, S. (2001)	Leatherwood, S. (2001) <i>Whales, dolphins, and porpoises of the western North Atlantic</i> . U.S. Dept. of Commerce. Report number: 63.
Dissertation or thesis	Lenné (1978)	Lenné, J.M. (1978) <i>Studies of the biology and taxonomy of Colletotrichum species</i> . PhD thesis, Melbourne, University of Melbourne.
Online material	Goudet (2001)	Goudet J. (2001) <i>FSTAT, a program to estimate and test gene diversities and fixation indices v. 2.9.3</i> . Available at: <a href="http://www2.unil.ch/popgen/softwares/fstat.htm">http://www2.unil.ch/popgen/softwares/fstat.htm</a> . [Accessed 1 July 2015].

<sup>a</sup>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.

<sup>b</sup>Papers 'in press' that are not yet available as a DOI should be submitted as a 'Other files for information' file to be available to the editor.

<sup>c</sup>Conference proceedings that are not available online, or have not been formally published but are only available to people who attended the conference, should not be included. Such work should instead be described as unpublished data (i.e. 'personal communication').

## Tables

- 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. <sup>a</sup>, <sup>b</sup> and <sup>c</sup>
- Individual file for each table
- Save file in an editable format, e.g. .DOCX
- **Not** embedded as an image
- If the table is very large, make it a Supporting Information file

## Figures

- Identify figures using a number, e.g. Figure 2
- Number in a separate series from the Tables
- Mention figures in the text in numerical order (Figure 1, then Figure 2 etc.)
- Subdivisions within figures should be labelled with lower case letters, e.g. (a), (b) and (c)
- **No figures in the main text file**
- Individual file for each figure
- If the file is very large, save it as a TIF file then compress it using LZW compression
- Magnification in photographic figures should be shown by a scale or bar
- Please consider colour-blind readers – avoid the use of red/green contrasts if possible
- Legends should be self-explanatory and included at the end of the main document. All symbols and abbreviations should be explained

- First 100 characters of the legend should describe key aspects of the figure, for the abbreviated links used in the online version
- For detailed information on our digital illustration standards, please go to [https://authorservices.wiley.com/asset/photos/electronic\\_artwork\\_guidelines.pdf](https://authorservices.wiley.com/asset/photos/electronic_artwork_guidelines.pdf)

### Supporting Information

- Supporting Information gives the opportunity to present large datasets or data in different formats than traditional print media, e.g. video or images in 3-dimensions
- Electronic files for online publication must be submitted for the review process, uploaded as separate files and given the file designation 'Supporting Information'
- Please try to restrict individual files sizes to 10 MB maximum (zipped or unzipped)
- Provide a brief title for each item intended for online publication at the end of the main manuscript (figures and tables and other files)
- Material will not be copyedited or typeset by the publisher – it will be published in the format you provide it in
- For more information on preparing Supporting Information, please go to <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/Prepare/supporting-information.html>

### Other files for information

- Written permission from any colleagues whose unpublished work you include as a 'personal communication'
- Articles cited as 'in press' but not yet available for public access should be uploaded as .PDF files for the reviewers

## Other article type formats

### Short Communication format

Only complete studies will be published, preliminary observations will not be considered.

As for Original Articles (above), please submit the Main Text, each Table, each Figure and each Supporting Information item as individual files.

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

## Technical Advance format

As for Original Articles (above), please submit the Main Text, each Table, each Figure and each Supporting Information item as individual files.

The Main Text of a Technical Advance can use the same order as an Original Article or a Short Communication.

## Review and Microreview format

Reviews and Microreviews that are timely and critical are welcomed.

As for Original Articles (above), please submit the Main Text, each Table, each Figure and each Supporting Information item as individual files.

The Main Text of a Review or Microreview uses the order:

- Title page
- Summary
- Sections as appropriate to guide the reader (usually include Introduction, Conclusions)
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Supporting Information legends
- Figure legends

Please remember that if you re-use any tables or figures from other papers, then you will need to obtain copyright clearance from the original source journal.

## Pathogen Profile format

As for Original Articles (above), please submit the Main Text, each Table, each Figure and each Supporting Information item as individual files.

The Main Text of a Pathogen Profile uses the order:

- Title page
- Abstract: a short piece of text followed by short sections of your choice, such as the following **examples**:
  - Taxonomy
  - Biology
  - 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

## Editorial format

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

## Pre-submission checklist

### Permissions

- ☆ Co-authors have all seen and approved the submitted version
- ☆ Colleagues whose data is cited as unpublished or personal communication have given their written permission for their data to be included (upload as 'Other files for information')
- ☆ Tables or figures that have been published before need permission from the copyright holder to re-use them
- ☆ Images taken from internet sources need permission from the copyright holder to re-use them. Obtain the permission and use the correct attribution statements, or indicate in the cover letter if the image is copyright-free

### Authors

- ☆ Have your ORCID number ready to enter with your name and contact details
- ☆ Have the e-mail address(es) of your co-author(s) ready
- ☆ Ask co-author(s) if there are any conflicts of interest to declare (include in the cover letter and Acknowledgements)

### Manuscript

- ☆ Title page and summary are included in the manuscript Main Text file
- ☆ Run the 'spell checker' and 'grammar checker' on your manuscript
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