

Instructions for Authors

REQUIREMENTS

Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus publishes a range of manuscript categories to accommodate diverse forms of scholarly communication and to provide authors with flexibility in presenting their research. The main types of contributions include:

Original Research Article

A full-length manuscript reporting original experimental, theoretical, or empirical research. The article must present a clear research question or hypothesis, a detailed methodology enabling reproducibility, comprehensive results, and a critical discussion. A structured format (e.g., Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion) is required.

Review Article

A comprehensive and critical synthesis of existing literature on a defined topic. Reviews should provide analytical insight, identify knowledge gaps, and propose future research directions. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are welcome and must clearly describe the methodology and inclusion criteria.

Short Communication

A concise report of significant and novel findings that warrant rapid dissemination. The manuscript is shorter than a full research article and may contain a limited number of figures and tables. The structure may be condensed but must include sufficient methodological detail.

Methods Article

An article describing a novel method, protocol, analytical procedure, or a significant methodological improvement. The method must be validated, and its applicability clearly demonstrated. Reproducibility and technical clarity are essential.

Perspective Article

A scholarly opinion or forward-looking analysis addressing emerging issues, research trends, policy implications, or conceptual developments within the journal's scope. Perspectives should be evidence-based and supported by relevant literature.

Data Article

A manuscript describing a high-quality, original dataset of scientific value. The dataset must be publicly accessible in a recognized repository with a persistent identifier (e.g., DOI). The article should detail data collection methods, structure, validation, and potential reuse, without extensive interpretative discussion.

Technical Note

A brief description of a technical innovation, instrument modification, software tool, or practical methodological refinement. The focus should be on technical advancement rather than a full experimental analysis.

Editorial

An article written by the Editor-in-Chief or invited authors addressing journal policy, thematic issues, or significant developments in the field. Editorials are typically not peer-reviewed.

Erratum

A correction of errors published in a previous article that affect the accuracy, clarity, or integrity of the record. The correction must clearly reference the original publication.

Corrigendum

A formal notice published to correct a significant error in a previously published article for which the authors are responsible. The correction addresses mistakes that affect specific parts of the publication (e.g., data values, figures, tables, author information, or methodological details) but do not invalidate the overall results or conclusions.

Retraction

A formal notice withdrawing a previously published article due to significant errors, ethical violations, data fabrication, plagiarism, or other breaches of publication integrity. The retraction will clearly state the reason and provide a full reference to the original article. Retractions are issued by the Editor-in-Chief and/or Publisher in accordance with international publication ethics standards.

Obituary

A commemorative article honouring a distinguished scientist or contributor to the field. It should highlight major scientific achievements and impact.

Letter to the Editor

A short communication commenting on previously published articles or discussing relevant scientific issues. Letters should be concise, evidence-based, and respectful in tone.

All manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the journal's system at <https://acs.agr.hr>

Submissions by e-mail are not accepted.

Submission of a manuscript implies that the work has not been published previously, is not under consideration elsewhere, and that all listed authors have approved the manuscript and agreed to its submission.

Each submission must be accompanied by a cover letter signed by the corresponding author. The cover letter should briefly describe the aim of the study and its contribution to scientific knowledge, specify the manuscript type, confirm that the manuscript has not been published or submitted elsewhere. The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that all co-authors have approved the submission.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Manuscripts must be written in clear and grammatically correct English. Authors are strongly encouraged to have their manuscript professionally checked prior to submission. The text should be prepared using 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced throughout, with line numbering and margins of at least 2.5 cm. The manuscript should not exceed 16 A4 pages excluding references, tables, and figures.

Manuscripts should be arranged in the following order: Title, Author names, Affiliations, Corresponding author e-mail, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion (or combined Results and Discussion), Conclusion, Acknowledgements, CRediT

authorship contribution statement, Declaration of Competing Interest, Ethics and Permit Approvals, Data Availability Statement, Funding Statement, References, Tables, and Figure captions. Figures must be submitted separately as supplementary files.

The **Title** should be concise and informative, ideally limited to 10–12 words. Abbreviations should be avoided, and commonly accepted crop names should be used where appropriate.

The **Full names of all authors** must be provided on the title page of the manuscript and entered consistently in the online submission system. Surnames should be clearly indicated and written in capital letters to ensure accurate indexing and citation. For each author, a **complete institutional affiliation** must be given, including the department, university or organization, city, and country. The corresponding author must be clearly identified, and a **valid e-mail address must be provided**.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that the order of authors and institutional details are correct at the time of submission, as changes after acceptance may not be permitted.

The **Abstract** must not exceed 1500 characters and should clearly state the aim of the study, the methodology used, the principal results, and the main conclusions. Four to five keywords should follow the abstract.

The **Introduction** should clearly define the research problem and place it within the context of current scientific knowledge. Authors are expected to provide a concise and focused overview of relevant literature directly related to the investigated topic, highlighting existing gaps or unresolved issues that justify the study. The section should not be an exhaustive review of the field but rather a critical synthesis that establishes the scientific rationale for the research. The final paragraph of the Introduction must clearly state the objective or hypothesis of the study.

The **Materials and Methods** section must provide sufficient detail to allow replication of the study by qualified researchers. Scientific names of plant and animal species must be italicized and accompanied by cultivar names where applicable. Equipment and chemicals should be identified with manufacturer details including city and country. Statistical analyses must be clearly described.

The **Results** section should present the major findings of the study clearly and objectively, without interpretation. Data should be reported in a logical sequence that reflects the objectives of the study. Authors should refer readers to tables and figures for detailed data presentation, avoiding unnecessary repetition of numerical values in the text. Statistical significance levels and other relevant statistical parameters must be clearly indicated, preferably within tables and figures where appropriate.

The **Discussion** should interpret the findings in relation to the objectives of the study and existing scientific literature. Authors are expected to explain the significance of their results, compare them with previously published studies, and address any limitations of the research where relevant. The discussion should not simply repeat the results but provide critical analysis and scientific context. Where appropriate, the Results and Discussion sections may be combined into a single section titled “Results and Discussion.”

The **Conclusion** should concisely summarize the principal findings of the study and clearly state their scientific significance. It must directly reflect the objectives presented in the Introduction and be supported by the results reported in the manuscript. The section should not repeat detailed data or restate the discussion, but instead provide a focused synthesis of the main outcomes and their broader implications. Where appropriate, authors may briefly indicate practical applications, limitations of the study, or directions for future research.

The **Acknowledgements** section should be placed after the Conclusion and before the CRediT authorship contribution statement. This section is intended to recognize individuals, institutions, or organizations that contributed to the work but do not meet the criteria for authorship. Such contributions may include technical assistance, laboratory support, language editing, statistical advice, or administrative support. Authors should ensure that all individuals named in the Acknowledgements have granted permission to be acknowledged. Financial support must not be listed in this section but should instead be included in the Funding Statement. The Acknowledgements should be concise and should not include expressions of personal gratitude unrelated to the research.

The **References** should be arranged alphabetically by authors' surnames and chronologically for multiple publications by the same author. Journal titles should be abbreviated according to NCBI standards, and DOIs should be included where available. Authors using reference management software must remove all field codes before submission. References must follow the author-year citation system. All references cited in the text must appear in the reference list and vice versa.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that the spelling of names and publication years are consistent throughout the manuscript.

Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus follows the author-year citation system. In the text, references should include the author's surname (without initials) and the year of publication, for example: Martins (2017) or (Martins, 2017). When a work has two authors, both surnames should be cited, for example: Martins and Stevens (2017). For works with more than two authors, only the surname of the first author should be followed by "et al." in the text (e.g., Babić et al., 2013). The abbreviation "et al." should not be used in the reference list, where the names of all authors must be provided.

Multiple references cited together in the text should be arranged chronologically, for example: (Babić et al., 2013; Liber et al., 2014; Martins et al., 2017).

The reference list must be arranged alphabetically by authors' surnames and chronologically for multiple publications by the same author. For works by the same author, the order should be: (1) single-author publications arranged by year; (2) publications with one co-author; (3) publications with multiple co-authors. If several works by the same author(s) were published in the same year, they should be distinguished as 2017a, 2017b, etc.

Journal titles must be abbreviated according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) standards. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) must be included where available.

The reference format should follow the examples below.

Journal articles

Journal article without DOI:

Liber Z., Bogdanović S., Radosavljević I., Pruša M., Filipović M., Stešević D., Šatović Z. (2014). Morphological analysis of Short-Tooth Sage (*Salvia brachyodon* Vandas) populations. *Agric Conspec Sci* 79 (2): 71–96.

Journal article with DOI:

Bhargava B., Gupta Y.C., Dhiman S.R., Sharma P. (2015). Effect of seed priming on germination, growth and flowering of Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus* L.). *Natl Acad Sci Lett* 38: 81–85. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40009-014-0298-4>

Journal article published in a language other than English must indicate the language at the end of the reference (e.g., “in Croatian”).

Books

Acquaah G. (2012). Principles of Plant Genetics and Breeding, 2nd Edition. John Wiley and Sons, Ltd, Chichester, United Kingdom, pp. 120–130.

Kapš M., Lamberson W.R. (2017). Biostatistics for Animal Science, 3rd Edition. CABI, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, pp. 30–35.

Book chapters

Miller R.K. (2002). Factors affecting the quality of raw meat. In: Meat Processing – Improving Quality (Kerry J., Kerry J., Ledward D., eds), Woodhead Publishing Ltd, Cambridge, United Kingdom, pp. 27–63.

Conference proceedings and symposia

Proceedings and abstracts should include full bibliographic details, including editor(s), event title, location, and page numbers.

Articles accepted but not yet published should be cited as “in press”.

Electronic materials and websites must include full publication details, URL, and access date in the format “[Accessed Day Month Year]”.

Software and theses should include full bibliographic information including institution and location.

Authors using reference management software may download the official *Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus* citation style for Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote from the journal website. All field codes must be removed prior to submission.

Footnotes should be used only when essential. In most cases, information should be incorporated into the main text. If footnotes are necessary, they must be indicated by superscript numbers in the text and kept concise.

Tables should be placed at the end of the manuscript, each on a separate page, and numbered consecutively as cited in the text. Each table must have a clear and self-explanatory title. Figures must be submitted in high-resolution TIFF or EPS format as separate files. All figure captions should be typed on a separate sheet of the manuscript after the tables and include the following:

(1) A figure label with Arabic numerals, and “Figure” abbreviated to “Fig” (e.g., Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.).

(2) Brief and self-explanatory title.

Each **Figure** must be submitted separately as a supplementary file in high-resolution TIFF or EPS format. Figures embedded in Word, PowerPoint, or other document formats will not be accepted. The minimum resolution should be 300 dpi for color and grayscale images and 600 dpi for line drawings. Figures must not contain captions within the image file.

All figure captions should be provided in the main manuscript file after the tables. Each caption must include a figure label using Arabic numerals with “Figure” abbreviated as “Fig.” (e.g., Fig. 1, Fig. 2), followed by a brief and self-explanatory title. Captions should allow the figure to be understood without reference to the main text.

Figures must be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are cited in the text and should be referenced at the most appropriate point within the manuscript. Authors should design figures with the journal page layout in mind. All figures and graphical elements must remain clear and legible after a reduction of up to 50%. Lettering should be of sufficient size to ensure readability after reduction, with a final printed font size of approximately 6–8 pt.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that figures are of publication quality at the time of submission.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Authors are required to include a **CRedit authorship contribution statement** following the Acknowledgements section, specifying individual contributions according to the CRedit taxonomy (<https://credit.niso.org/>).

A **Declaration of Competing Interest** must be provided. Authors should disclose any financial or personal relationships that could be perceived to influence the work. If no competing interests exist, this must be explicitly stated.

All necessary **ethical approvals and research permits** must be clearly indicated. If ethical approval was not required, this should be stated explicitly.

A **Data Availability Statement** must describe where the data supporting the findings can be accessed. Authors are encouraged to deposit data in a public repository with a DOI. Any restrictions on data access must be clearly justified.

All sources of financial support must be acknowledged in a **Funding Statement**.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TOOLS

Agriculturae Conspectus Scientificus does not permit the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the generation, drafting, or substantive revision of manuscripts. AI technologies may not be used to create scientific content, interpret data, formulate conclusions, or replace intellectual contributions of the authors.

AI tools may be used solely for language editing purposes, including grammar correction and linguistic refinement. Such use must not alter the scientific meaning or introduce new content.

All authors are required to provide a transparent disclosure of AI use in a dedicated **AI Use Statement** included in the manuscript.

If AI tools were used for language editing, authors must specify:

- The name of the tool,
- The purpose of its use (e.g., grammar correction, language refinement),
- A confirmation that all scientific content, analysis, and conclusions remain the sole responsibility of the authors.

If no AI tools were used, authors must include the statement:

- **“AI Use Statement: None.”**

Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, integrity, originality, and ethical compliance of their manuscript, regardless of any permitted AI-assisted language editing.

Failure to disclose AI use may result in manuscript rejection or retraction in accordance with the journal’s ethical policies.

SUBMISSION PREPARATION CHECKLIST

As part of the submission process, authors must confirm that their manuscript complies with the following requirements. Submissions that do not meet these criteria may be returned for correction prior to peer review.

Before finalizing submission, please ensure that:

Originality and Exclusivity

- The manuscript has not been previously published, in whole or in part.
- The manuscript is not under consideration by another journal.
- All authors have approved the final version of the manuscript and agreed to its submission.

File Format and General Formatting

- The manuscript is submitted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.
- The text is double-spaced and prepared in 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Line numbering is included.
- Italics are used where appropriate (e.g., scientific names), and underlining is avoided except for URLs.
- All tables are placed at the end of the manuscript file.
- Figure captions are included in the manuscript file after the tables.
- Figures are prepared as separate high-resolution supplementary files (TIFF or EPS format).

Required Statements

The manuscript includes the following mandatory sections, placed before the reference list:

- CRediT authorship contribution statement
- Declaration of Competing Interest
- Ethics and Permit Approvals
- Data Availability Statement
- Funding Statement
- AI Use Statement

References and Style Compliance

- All references cited in the text are included in the reference list and formatted according to APA style.
- DOIs are provided where available.
- The manuscript complies with all stylistic and bibliographic requirements described in the Author Guidelines.

By proceeding with submission, the corresponding author confirms that all the above requirements have been fulfilled.

POST-ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES

After acceptance, the corresponding author will receive page proofs for final review. Only typographical or typesetting errors may be corrected at this stage. Substantive changes to the manuscript will not be permitted.

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