

Guidelines for Authors

The Journal of Integrated Field Science (JIFS) publishes articles in all areas of field science in agricultural science. The JIFS is an English journal launched in 2003 when the Integrative Field Science Center, Graduate School of Agricultural Science, Tohoku University, was officially established. The JIFS places the edit committee under which original scientific articles, including short papers, proceedings, reviews, descriptions, and data are published. An original manuscript will be peer-reviewed by two referees. In principle, our journal publishes one volume per year, and it began publication as an online journal from volume 15 (JIFS: https://www.agri.tohoku.ac.jp/jp/center/far_field/activity/). We will also publish all the manuscripts on the website as an e-journal (Tohoku University Repository: <https://tohoku.repo.nii.ac.jp/>).

Ethical Issues

Authors' Responsibility

The manuscript will not be accepted if it has been published in other periodicals or is under consideration for publication elsewhere. All authors must have participated in the conception, design, implementation, analysis, or interpretation of the data.

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Ethical Rules for Experiments and Researches

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Registration of Molecular Sequences

New molecular sequences in manuscripts must be deposited in an appropriate international data bank. The database accession numbers must be included in the manuscript. For taxonomical studies based on molecular sequences, the source specimen of molecular information should be deposited in an appropriate institution.

Conflict of Interest

Authors/reviewers should clearly declare any conflicts of interest.

Scientific Misconduct

The Editorial Board of the JIFS reserves the right to reject any manuscript that contains any fraudulent activity (falsification, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.). Any research that does not meet the acceptable standards of research behavior as determined by national/local regulations, institutional review boards, or their equivalents regarding human and animal experimentation will be rejected.

The Editorial Board of the JIFS also reserves the right to withdraw a published article without the consent of the author(s), in case of any misconduct of the author(s) related to the published article. The decision of withdrawal by the Editorial Board and the reasons for the decision will be notified to the author(s) by e-mail.

Preparing the Manuscripts

General Preparation

Times Roman or Times New Roman (+ Symbol) font with standard size (e.g., 12-point) should be used in the text and tables. Pages and lines in the text must be numbered consecutively throughout the manuscript. The file name must include the corresponding author's name. Manuscripts must be written in English and typed in double-line spacing (25–28 lines per page) with 20-mm margins. Short reports should not exceed four printed pages, including references, tables, and figures. Use the automatic page- and line-numbering function to number the pages throughout the manuscript.

- Do not use field functions.
- Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar.
- Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables.
- Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.
- Footnotes to the text are not allowed, and any such material should be incorporated into the text as parenthetical matter.

Each abbreviation should be defined when appearing for the first time and used consistently thereafter. Avoid abbreviations that are used only in a specific field and are unfamiliar to general readers. Insert a space between a number and a symbol, for instance, mean \pm S.D., =, <.

Parts of the Manuscript

The manuscript should be submitted in separate files: main text file (including title page, acknowledgments, and references), tables, and figures. Manuscripts should be divided into the following sections:

1) Title page

- Title of the manuscript

- The full names of all the authors

- The author's institutional affiliations where the work was conducted, with a footnote for the author's present address if different from where the work was conducted.

2) Abstract and keywords

3) Main text

4) Acknowledgments (optional)

5) References

6) Tables (each table complete with title and footnotes)

7) Figure legends

8) Figures

9) Appendices (optional)

10) Supporting Information (optional)

Each figure, Appendices, and Supporting Information should be supplied as separate files.

Title Page

The title page must contain a main title, a running title, full name(s) of all the author(s), their affiliation(s) where the work was conducted, and information for the corresponding author, including complete corresponding address and e-mail address. Abbreviations should not be used in the main title, except for commonly used ones, such as DNA and RNA. A vague title must be avoided. The title should be written for readers outside the discipline. The running title must not exceed 50 characters, including spaces.

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The abstract should state the backgrounds/rationale, objectives, findings, and main conclusions of the work in a single paragraph of 300 words or less. State the significance of your findings in the abstract. The abstract should be written for readers outside the discipline. Abbreviations should be avoided in the abstract as far as possible. A heading is not required. Tables, figures, or references are not allowed in the abstract. Provide five to seven keywords (not appearing in the title) in alphabetical order positioned beneath the abstract. Abbreviations should be avoided in the keywords as far as possible.

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Each type of papers should contain the following sections:

- Original articles: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion.
- Review articles: Introduction, other optional sections, and Conclusion(s).

Authors should use headings to divide the sections of their manuscript, if appropriate: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion(s). Regardless of the article type, the backgrounds and the aim of the study should be clearly written in the Introduction for a broad readership of the JIFS.

In cases where a study deals with human subjects or live animals, the Materials and Methods section of the manuscript must declare that all experiments were performed in compliance with the relevant laws and/or institutional guidelines, and the study was approved by the institutional review board, if necessary. A statement must also be included stating that informed consent was obtained from human subjects.

Acknowledgments (Optional)

Contributions from individuals who do not meet the criteria for authorship should be listed, with permission from the contributor, in the Acknowledgments section. All funding sources should also be mentioned. Thanks to anonymous reviewers are not appropriate.

References

References are cited in the main text by the first author's last name and year of publication in parentheses, as shown below.

- Single author: (Aragaki, 2020)
- Two authors: (Aragaki and Ayase, 2020)
- Three or more authors: (Momota et al., 2020)
- Two or more references can be cited in the order of year of publication, such as (Takagi et al., 1993; Tamai et al., 1995; Sasaki et al., 2000; Hayami et al., 2012)

References are listed after the main text in alphabetical order under the first author's name: Last name(s), followed by initials of first and middle names; year of publication (in parentheses); title of article; title of periodical (abbreviated according to Index Medicus and italicized); number of volume (bold); and the first and last pages. Publications by the same author(s) in the same year should be listed as 2007a, 2007b, etc. In a reference with more than fifteen authors, give the first fifteen authors and then use et al.

When a book is referred to, the reference should include the author's name; year of publication (in parentheses); title of book (capitalized and italic); edition (if any); publisher; place of publication; and page(s).

Note the following examples.

1) A journal article:

Momota, K., Takagi, R., Sasaki, A., Tamai, S. and Ikeda, M. (2021) The effect of birds and cows on marine ecosystem in Miyagi Prefecture. *J. Integr. Field Sci.*, **6**: 109-115.

2) A chapter in an edited book:

Aragaki, Y. and Ikeda, M. (2021) The effect of courtship dance of fish on marine biodiversity in Onagawa Bay. In *Fish, Cattle and Biodiversity, 2nd ed.*, edited by Ogura, S. and Fukasawa, M. Tohoku University Press, Sendai, pp. 108-150.

3) A book:

Ogura, S. and Fukasawa, M. (2021) *Fish, Cattle and Biodiversity, 2nd ed.*, Tohoku University Press, Sendai.

Tables

- Tables should be prepared in editable files, such as Word and Excel.
- Table(s) are placed after References.
- Number tables sequentially with Arabic numerals (e.g., Table 1) in the order in which they are cited in the manuscript.
- A large table is not welcome. The final printed size of the table, including its title, legends, and footnotes, should be less than one printed page.
- Abbreviations should not be used in the title as far as possible.
- Footnotes to the tables should be indicated by superscript lowercase letters (or asterisks for significance values and other statistical data) and included beneath the table body.
- All abbreviations used in the tables must be defined in the footnotes.

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- Figures should be prepared in PowerPoint, J-PEG, TIFF, EPS, or PDF files.
- Number figures sequentially with Arabic numerals (e.g., Fig. 1) in the order in which they are cited in the manuscript.
- Figure legends should be placed after the References.
- Authors should emphasize the most essential points in each figure by providing an understandable title and legend to each figure.
- Abbreviations should not be used in the titles as far as possible.
- Indicate the notable findings with some symbols or marks in each figure.
- Provide explanations for symbols or marks in the figure legends.
- All abbreviations used in the figures must be defined in the legends.
- High-quality photographs may be required for printing morphological data.
- Provide a scale bar in a representative morphological photograph.

Manuscript Submission

All files should be sent to the editorial board as attached files of e-mail to the Editorial Office of JIFS (jifs@grp.tohoku.ac.jp).

The manuscript files should be provided in the Word version of the manuscript (the title page, abstract, main text, references, and legends of figures), the Word or Excel version of tables, and the PowerPoint, J-PEG, TIFF, EPS, or PDF version of the figures.

The JIFS requests no submission charges.

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peer review. If the manuscript is returned without peer review, the author is notified immediately.

If the manuscript warrants full peer review, the Editor assigns two independent reviewers, including the Editorial Board Members. All reviewers who review the manuscript remain anonymous to the authors. Every manuscript is treated as confidential information. The Editor-in-Chief makes the final decision based on the comments and recommendations provided by the reviewers.

Submission of the Revised Manuscript

The response letter should summarize the changes made and include a list of your point-to-point responses to the reviewers' critiques. The revised manuscript and the Word version of the response letter should be sent by e-mail to the Editorial Office of JIFS.

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Submission Deadline: November 30, 2025

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