

## Article structure

- **Subdivision - numbered sections**

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

- **Introduction**

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

- **Material and methods**

Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

- **Experimental**

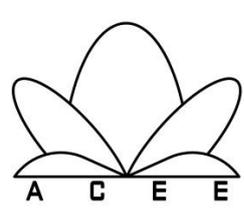
Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

- **Theory/calculation**

A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

- **Results and Discussion**

Results should be clear and concise, and be part of a single section, discussing the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. Extensive citation and discussion of the published literature should be avoided.



- **Conclusions**

The main conclusions drawn from results should be presented in a short Conclusions section (maximum 100 words.)

- **Appendices**

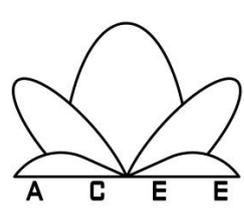
If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

- **Essential title page information**

- Title. Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- Author names and affiliations. Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- Corresponding author. Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. Ensure that phone numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be kept up to date by the corresponding author.
- Present/permanent address. If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

- **Abstract**

A concise and factual abstract is required. Each paper should be provided with an abstract of about 100-150 words. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.



- **Graphical abstract**

A Graphical abstract is optional and should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership online. Authors must provide images that clearly represent the work described in the article. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files.

- **Highlights**

Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point.)

- **Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 5 keywords to be included in an article, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, "and", "of"). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

- **Abbreviations**

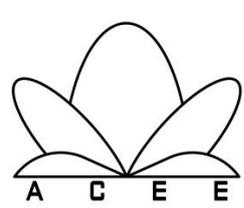
Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

- **Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.)

- **Units**

Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI.



- **Math formulae**

Present simple formulae in the line of normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g.,  $X/Y$ . In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text.)

- **Footnotes**

Footnotes should be used sparingly. Number them consecutively throughout the article, using superscript Arabic numbers. Many word processors build footnotes into the text, and this feature may be used. Should this not be the case, indicate the position of footnotes in the text and present the footnotes themselves separately at the end of the article. Do not include footnotes in the Reference list.

Table footnotes indicate each footnote in a table with a superscript lowercase letter.

- **Electronic artwork**

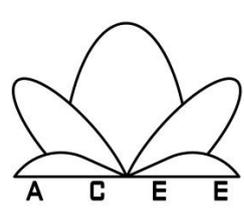
General points

- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork .
- Save text in illustrations as 'graphics' or enclose the font .
- Only use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times, Symbol .
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text .
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files .
- Provide captions to illustrations separately .
- Submit each figure as a separate file.

- **Formats**

Regardless of the application used, when your electronic artwork is finalised, please 'save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below:)

- **EPS:** Vector drawings. Embed the font or save the text as 'graphics.'
- **TIFF:** Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi .
- **TIFF:** Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi .
- **TIFF:** Combinations bitmapped line/half-ton (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required .
- If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is.'



Please do not:

- Supply files that are optimised for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

- **Figure captions**

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used. Note that the maximum number of figures allowed for Original article, case study, and review papers is 6. Multiple figures can be expressed as one figure (for e.g. 1a, 1b, 1c etc...), while retaining the maximum limit of 6. The Journal discourages publication of simple one line graphs/figures, pattern figures, conventional spectra (X-ray, FTIR, UV, NMR, etc) and SEM photographs of a routine nature.

- **Tables**

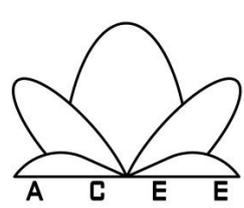
Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place footnotes to tables below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters. Avoid vertical rules. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Note that the maximum number of figures allowed for Original article, case study, and review papers is 6. The Journal discourages publication of simple one parameter tables; such information should be preferably described in the text itself.

- **References**

Maximum 20, 35 and 75 references for short communication, original research paper/case study and review papers, respectively.

- **Citation in text**

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished



results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

- **Web references**

As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

- **References in a special issue**

Please ensure that the words 'this issue' are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

- **Reference style**

- ***Text: All citations in the text should refer to:***

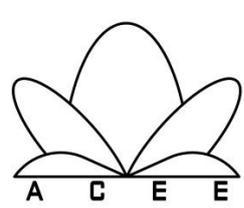
- Single author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication;
    - Two authors: both authors' names and the year of publication ;
    - Three or more authors: first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication.

Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically)

- ***References in the list should be placed first alphabetically, then numbered chronologically.***

Examples: 'as demonstrated (Allan, 2000a, 2000b, 1999; Allan and Jones, 1999). Kramer et al. (2010) have recently shown '....

List: References should be arranged first alphabetically, THEN NUMBERED NUMERICALLY, and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters 'a', 'b', 'c', etc., placed after the year of publication .



Examples :

Reference to a journal publication :

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J.A.J., Lupton, R.A., 2010. The art of writing a scientific article. *J. Sci. Commun.* 163, 51–59 .

Reference to a book :

Strunk Jr., W., White, E.B., 2000. *The Elements of Style*, fourth ed. Longman, New York .

Reference to a chapter in an edited book :

Mettam, G.R., Adams, L.B., 2009. How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: Jones, B.S., Smith , R.Z. (Eds.), *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. E-Publishing Inc., New York, pp. 281–304

- **Submission checklist**

The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

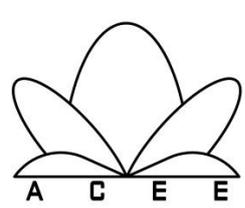
Ensure that the following items are present :

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details :

- E-mail address
- Phone numbers
- Keywords
- All figure captions
- All tables (including title, description, footnotes)
- Further considerations
- Manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar-checked '
- References are in the correct format for this journal
- All references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web)

- **Use of the Digital Object Identifier**

The Digital Object Identifier (DOI) may be used to cite and link to electronic documents. The DOI consists of a unique alpha-numeric character string which is assigned to a document by the



publisher upon the initial electronic publication. The assigned DOI never changes. Therefore, it is an ideal medium for citing a document, particularly 'Articles in press' because they have not yet received their full bibliographic information. Example of a correctly given DOI (in URL format; here an article in the journal Physics Letters B :(

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.physletb.2010.09.059>

When you use a DOI to create links to documents on the web, the DOIs are guaranteed never to change.

- **Publication of Articles**

After acceptance the Journal will publish articles online. Requests for delayed publication of the accepted articles are generally not acceptable.

- **Proofs**

One set of page proofs (as PDF files) will be sent by e-mail to the corresponding author.