

Information for Contributors

GENERAL

Progress in Natural Science, a comprehensive academic journal sponsored by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, is published monthly by Science in China Press and Taylor & Francis Ltd. This journal aims at presenting the up-to-date scientific achievements with high creativity and great significance in every field of natural science. Contributions from authors of other nationalities are also welcome.

Manuscripts are selected for publication according to the editorial assessment of their suitability and the evaluation from independent reviewers. Papers are usually sent to three or more reviewers, who are kept anonymous. Editorial staff will edit accepted papers to improve accuracy and clarity and to shorten, if necessary.

It is a condition of publication that manuscripts submitted to this journal have not been published and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere.

The articles published in this journal are abstracted/indexed in SCISEARCH, Research Alert and Current Contents/Physical, Chemical & Earth Science of ISI, and Chemical Abstracts. Once an article is published in this journal, contribution fee and 30 reprints will be sent to the author.

CATEGORIES OF PAPER

Review articles (8 journal pages on average, including figures, tables and references): Summation and comment on the recent advances in forward and cross subjects, and orientational suggestion for the further development of such subjects. Review of the academic achievements acquired by a scientist or a group of scientists who have systematically worked on this subject will be most welcome.

Scientific papers (5 journal pages on average): Reports of the significant achievements or breakthroughs in various fields of science.

Research notes and letters (up to 4 and 2 journal pages respectively): The notes are the reports by stages of original research in various fields of science. The letters are the short reports of novel discoveries of scientific research in the fields of common interest, or the discussion about or comment on a paper published recently in this journal.

Laboratory communication (nonperiodic column, 2 to 3 journal pages): The brief report on the recently major achievements and new discoveries obtained by a State Key Laboratory in China, including their major content, background, progress and scientific significance; the academic contribution of leading research members; as well as the major international academic exchange organized by the Laboratories.

Book review or academic forum (nonperiodic column, 2 to 3 journal pages generally): Introduction and comment on newly published natural scientific works with high academic level. Publishing different opinions or academic viewpoints on certain subjects. It aims at enlivening the academic atmosphere and promoting scientific innovation.

MANUSCRIPT REQUIREMENT

All manuscripts should be typed in 12P characters, double-spaced, on one side of A4 paper only. Leave margins at least 3 centimeters. One original and three copies are required along with a cover letter which should indicate the corresponding author's name, post/e-mail addresses and telephone/fax numbers; and provide the name of 5-6 recommended referees. For the authors whose native language is Chinese, please offer three copies of manuscript in Chinese (without figures, tables and references). A floppy disk of revised manuscript is required. Please note that if the submission is not accepted, manuscript will not be returned to the author unless on request.

Titles should be descriptive clauses, not full sentences. The maximum length is 80 characters and spaces. Titles should contain some keywords for index purpose. A running title of less than 40 English capitals should also be supplied separately. Name(s) of author(s), affiliation and address should appear right after the title.

Abstracts should present the aim and significance of research to general reader, convey the paper's main point, and outline the results or conclusions with 70 to 150 words. Use third person, passive voice and present tense.

Keywords: Provide 3 to 5 keywords or phrases at the bottom of the abstract to serve as guidelines for indexing.

Texts: Technical terms should be defined. The SI system should be used for units of measure throughout the texts. All tables and figures should be cited in numerical order.

Figures: All graphs, diagrams and photographs should be referred to as figures (up to 6 figures generally). Four sets of clear figures should be provided with manuscript, of which at least one set should be original for reproduction. Each copy of figures should be marked with the figure number, the first author's name and when known, the paper's reference number. Line drawings should use heavy lines or boxes for emphasizing or marking off the areas of figures. Scale bars should be put inside the photo-micrographs.

Tables should be drawn with three horizontal lines, at the top and bottom of the table and between the column headings and the table body. Vertical lines are not used between the columns unless confusion will occur. Do not repeat the information given in figures or text. When special explanations are needed for certain items in the table, mark them with a), b), ..., then give brief explanation under the table.

References should be listed in the same order as cited in the text (Unpublished paper, academic degree thesis, preprint and personal letter should not be included in the references, but may be placed in the footnotes).

Journal; Lian, J. et al. Dynamics of conditioned visual flight orientation in *Drosophila*. *Progress in Natural Science*, 1998, 8(5): 573.

Book; Day, F. W. et al. An Introduction to Ergodic Theory, 2nd ed., London; Chapman and Hall, 1980, 30~35.

Collection; Hardie, R. C. A novel gas sensor by semiconductors. In: *Progress in Sensory Physiology* (ed. Ottosom, D.), Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1983, 1.

Proceedings; Xi, C. F. The experiences and problems on soil classification in China. In: *Proceedings of Soil Classification and Soil Geography* (in Chinese), Hangzhou: Zhejiang People Press, 1997, 1.

Patent; Plank, C. J. et al. U. S. Patent 4 081 490, 1978-02-15.