

# Instructions for Authors

## 1. Introduction

*Progress in Natural Science* is a multidisciplinary academic journal co-sponsored by National Natural Science Foundation of China and Chinese Academy of Sciences and is published monthly by Science in China Press and Taylor and Francis. This Journal aims at presenting up-to-date scientific achievements of high creativity and great significance in every field of natural science. Contributions from authors of all nationalities are welcome.

Contributors are strongly encouraged to read these instructions carefully before preparing a manuscript for submission and to check the manuscript for compliance with these notes before submitting it for publication.

## 2. Submitting a Paper to *Progress in Natural Science*

Papers for consideration should be sent to the Editorial Office through our electronic submission system at website: [pub.nsf.gov.cn](http://pub.nsf.gov.cn)

When submitting manuscripts please enclose a cover letter stating the corresponding author's name, postal/email address and telephone/fax numbers. Please also supply the names of 5–6 recommended referees.

## 3. General Guidelines

*Progress in Natural Science* considers all manuscripts on the strict condition that they have been submitted only to *Progress in Natural Science*, that they have not been published already, nor are they under consideration for publication or in press elsewhere.

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

*Progress in Natural Science* accepts the following categories of paper:

**Review Articles:** Summation of and comment on the recent advances in a specific research field including suggestion for the further development of such subjects. Review of the academic achievements acquired by a scientist or group of scientists who have systematically worked on this subject will be most encouraged. Review articles should be 8 journal pages on average, including figures, tables and references.

**Scientific Papers:** Reports of original significant achievements or breakthroughs in various fields of science. Scientific papers should be 5 journal pages on average.

**Short Communications:** Short communications are reports of those primary results of a research project or short reports of novel discoveries of scientific research in fields of common interest. These papers should be up to 3 journal pages.

**Academic Forum:** This section aims at enlivening the academic atmosphere and promoting scientific innovation and active discussion of a paper recently published in this journal. These papers are generally 2–3 journal pages.

## Writing your paper

- Manuscripts should be typed in 12P characters, double-spaced throughout.
- The **title** of the paper should be descriptive and contain some keywords for indexing purposes. The title should be no more than 80 characters, including spaces.
- **Abstracts** of 70–150 words are required for all papers submitted and should precede the main text of a paper. Abstracts should present the aim and significance of the research to the general reader, convey the paper's main point and outline the results or conclusions.
- 3–5 **keywords or phrases** should be provided after the abstract to serve as guidelines for indexing.
- Section headings should be numbered sequentially, using a decimal system for subsections.
- Authors must adhere to **SI units**. (link to [www.bipm.org/en/si/](http://www.bipm.org/en/si/))
- All **graphs, diagrams and photos** should be referred to as **figures** (up to 6 figures generally). Each figure should be marked with the figure number. Line drawings should use heavy lines or boxes for emphasizing or marking off the areas of figures. Scale bars should be put inside photo-micrographs.
- **Tables** should be drawn with 3 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 necessary to avoid confusion. When special explanations are needed for certain items in the table, mark them with a), b), . . . , then give a brief explanation under the table.
- **References** should be listed in the same order as cited in the text. Unpublished papers, preprints and personal letters should not be referenced, but may be placed in the footnotes. References are to be cited as follows:

Books: Day FW and Emons T. An Introduction to Ergodic Theory. London: Chapman and Hall, 1980, 30–35

Article in a journal: Lian J, Wang J, Li F, et al. Dynamics of conditioned visual flight orientation in *Drosophila*. *Progress in Natural Science*, 1998, 8 (5): 573–585

Collections: Hardie RC. A novel gas sensor by semiconductors. In: *Progress in Natural Sensory Physiology*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1983, 1–5

Proceedings: Xi CF. The experiences and problems on soil classification in China. In: *Proceedings of Soil Classification and Soil Geography* (in Chinese). Hangzhou, China, July 2–5, 2002, 5

Patent: Plank C J. The US Patent 4 081 490, 1978-02-15