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## 1. Scope

*Amphibia-Reptilia* is a leading European multi-disciplinary journal devoted to all aspects of herpetology. *Amphibia-Reptilia* accepts original papers and reviews on ecology, behaviour, evolution, conservation, physiology, morphology, palaeontology, genetics, and systematics of amphibians and reptiles.

Manuscripts that are solely descriptive; purely faunistic (e.g., species check-list); based only on captive breeding; consisting only of a juxtaposition of non-connected fields; based on too small a sample size; or contain reports of work that appear to contravene accepted principles of conservation or ethical standards, may be rejected without external review. Moreover, the research must adhere to the legal requirements of the country in which the work was carried out. Papers describing new species are more likely to be considered if they offer broad discussion, present several new species, and are based on a sufficient number of specimens. Otherwise editorial rejection may apply. The current rejection rate is over 60%. Manuscripts that do not follow the editorial style will not be considered for publication and will be sent back to the authors.

The latest instructions for authors are also available from the Editorial Manager platform (<http://amre.edmgr.com>). Recent issues of *Amphibia-Reptilia* may also be consulted before submitting a manuscript. Some papers are available without charge on the Ingenta Connect website <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/brill/amre>.

*Amphibia-Reptilia* is published four times a year and is available in both paper and online versions to all full members of the *Societas Europaea Herpetologica* and to subscribing institutions. It is indexed in the *ISI Journal Citation Reports*<sup>®</sup> data base and has an increasing Impact Factor.

## 2. Submission

Submissions can only be done via the web platform (Editorial Manager), accessed at <http://amre.edmgr.com>. Authors that do not have a login password must register online. A detailed tutorial relating to this new system is available on the web platform. Authors or



reviewers who change their email address are kindly asked to update their data in their personal page in Editorial Manager.

During the submission process, authors will be requested to select one of the three co-editors of the journal, according to the subject area of the manuscript:

***General Biology and Eco-Ethology of Amphibians***

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The co-editors can assign the manuscripts to themselves, to another co-editor or to an associate editor. When handled by an associate editor, all communications go through the co-editor in charge of the manuscript. Editors must be contacted using Editorial Manager.

### 3. Manuscripts

Manuscripts must be formatted using double-spacing, with wide margins (3 cm), and with continuous page and line numbering throughout the entire text. British spelling should be used. Authors whose English is not their first language may consult English native speakers.

Manuscripts may be submitted as articles (4-12 printed pages), short notes (2-4 printed pages) or reviews (4-20 printed pages). Reviews must be written by specialists in the field and focus on hot topics or subjects not reviewed recently in the literature. The first page of all manuscripts must contain the title in lower case letters, the first and last names of all authors (no initials), the affiliation and address of each author, including the e-mail address of the corresponding author (manuscripts without a valid e-mail address will not be considered). Short notes must be prepared without dividing the text into sections, but must contain an abstract. Articles cannot be longer than 9000 words. They should be assembled in the following order (after the title page):



abstract, keywords, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, acknowledgements, references, tables, figure legends (grouped together). The main headings are written in bold, the second headings in italics and scientific names of species in italics. Paragraphs must be indented (except after headings) and not separated from each other by an empty line.

### *File formats*

The submission must consist in a single MS Word file (.doc) for the text, tables and figure legends and eps, jpeg, tiff, gif, pdf or doc files for the figures (with one figure per page). A pdf will be automatically assembled by Editorial Manager. If the figures are embedded in an MS Word file, they must not be composed in MS Word but in their initial software. A figure containing several parts must be saved as a single file. To guarantee good resolution in printing, colour figures should be saved as an original tiff or eps file with an original resolution of 600 or 1200 dpi. Files for colour figures should be submitted in CMYK and not in RGB format. If the tables create problems with their placement within the main MS Word file, they can be uploaded separately. All hyperlinks and field codes (e.g., from bibliographic databases) must be removed. Manuscripts in which the track change procedure of MS Word was used must be carefully checked for final acceptance of all corrections and removal of marginal comments.

### *Abstract*

The abstract should present a brief summary of the topic, including its aims, results and the relevance of the work. It should be presented in only one language (English) and be no longer than the recommended length (maximum 250 words for articles and reviews, 150 words for short notes).

### *Keywords*

Four to eight keywords must be presented after the abstract. They should be different from the words used in the title of the manuscript.

### *Introduction*

The introduction should clearly state the objectives of the study and place it within the context of previous publications. Conceptual introductions are preferred over descriptive texts. The introduction should not merely describe a study species or group but give an overview of a more general topic in herpetology and possibly other organismic groups. In other words, a paper cannot be justified just because a species is threatened or because natural history data are lacking.

### *Materials and Methods*

These should be presented in a smaller font than the rest of the manuscript (e.g., Times New Roman 10 vs 12). They should be explained in enough detail to allow replication. The sample sizes and the number of independent replicates should be clearly stated. For experimental work, details on both housing and observational conditions should be stated. Environmental conditions should be controlled as much as possible to avoid biased results. The exact dates or period of sampling and observation must be given. For studies based on a small number of study sites, the



geographic coordinates must be indicated. Statistics should be explained in the methods, particularly when complex models are used.

### *Results*

Anecdotal results should not be presented unless they are of primary importance. Instead, they should be stated in the discussion as personal observations. Results should focus on the main argument of the manuscript. Comparisons should be tested statistically. Sample sizes should be clearly presented.

### *Discussion*

The results should be discussed in the context of the existing literature. The discussion should not focus only on the study species or group but placed into the context of arguments about other model species to render it more conceptual. The literature should be covered in sufficient detail for both the topic and the study group. Each paragraph should focus on a different idea, but very short paragraphs should be combined with other paragraphs. The discussion must not be overly long. Speculation should be avoided.

### *Literature citations in the text*

These should be presented in chronological order as follows: Petranka (1998) or (Griffiths, 1996; Michimae and Wakahara, 2001; Schmidt, Feldman and Schaub, 2005). Where there are more than three authors, only the first should be named, followed by “et al.” (not in italics). Both the introduction and discussion must include an adequate number of citations for effective arguments to be established. In the list, references should be listed in alphabetical, and then chronological order, under the first author’s name and should refer only to publications cited in the text. List references with three or more author names after those with two. Journal names must be abbreviated. No space must be inserted between the initials of the first names. No empty lines must be inserted between references. Volume numbers are written in bold. The two last authors or editors in a citation are separated only by a comma. Abstracts of conferences should not be listed in the reference list, but cited in the text as unpublished data or personal observation.

References must be typed in the following order and form, respectively:

- Arnold 2002
- Arnold 2003
- Arnold, Peterson 2002
- Arnold, Pfrender, Jones 2001
  
- Myers, E.M., Zamudio, K.R. (2004): Multiple paternity in an aggregate breeding amphibian: the effect of reproductive skew on estimates of male reproductive success. *Mol. Ecol.* **13**: 1951-1963.



## Instructions for Authors

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- Kiesecker, J.M. (2003): Invasive species as a global problem. Toward understanding the worldwide decline of amphibians. In: *Amphibian Conservation*, p. 113-126. Semlitsch, R.D., Ed., Washington, Smithsonian.
- Zug, G.R., Vitt, L.J., Caldwell, J.P. (2001): *Herpetology. An Introductory Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. San Diego, Academic Press.

### Acknowledgements

These should be kept brief, but funding agencies should be listed. If legal requirements are necessary for the study, the collecting permits must be cited with reference to the institution who issued them. Individuals are identified by their last name and the initials of their first name.

### Statistics

Means and standard errors (SE) / deviations (SD) or medians and quartiles or ranges should be given as: mean  $\pm$  SE = 5.3  $\pm$  0.3 mm. If equations or special symbols such as the mean are used, the module MS Equation in MS Word must be used (available in "Insert Object"). Statistical symbols, such as *n*, *F*, *t*, *U*, *Z*, *r* must be indicated in italics. Degrees of freedom are indicated as a subscript to the test statistic (*F*<sub>2,265</sub>, *t*<sub>17</sub>). The name of the test should be given on its first appearance in front of the symbol (e.g., ANOVA, Mann-Whitney). The same test should be applied to the same kinds of analyses throughout the manuscript. *P* values for significant results should be quoted as below a threshold significance value (*P* < 0.05, *P* < 0.01, *P* < 0.001). Exact probabilities should be given for non significant results (e.g., *P* = 0.76). Multiple post-hoc tests must be used with caution to avoid experimental error by chance alone. When transformations are used, they should be stated in the materials and methods. The multiple use of individuals should be controlled for or avoided. Multivariate analyses are usually requested when several explanatory variables are tested for one dependent variable or when one explanatory variable is expected to explain several dependent variables.

### Abbreviations

The International System of Units should be used. Do not employ unexplained abbreviations for institutions, etc.

### Ethics

Authors should explain and justify, in a cover letter and in their manuscript, all techniques which have resulted in injuries or death of animals. Failing to do so will necessitate editorial rejection of the paper. In the Materials and Methods section of the manuscript, authors should detail as precisely as possible the conditions of maintenance, transport, anaesthesia, and marking of animals. When available, references should be added to justify that the techniques used were not inappropriately invasive. When alternative techniques exist to euthanasia, but were not used, the manuscripts may not be considered for publication.



### Tables

These should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numbers (in bold font) and submitted on separate pages. The table must be drawn using table editor in MS Word. This means that the space or tab function cannot be used. A recently published table should be used as a reference for constructing tables in the correct style. Vertical lines are not allowed and horizontal lines must be limited to the minimum. According to their size, tables should be assembled to fit into one (66 mm) or two columns (139 mm) of a journal page. Very small tables should be avoided and their results placed in the text.

### Illustrations

All illustrations should be drawn to fit into one (66 mm) or two columns (139 mm) of a journal page. Lettering and numbering should be large enough to be clearly visible when the illustration is reduced to published size. When several graphs are presented in the same figure, they should be as homogeneous as possible (i.e., the same range of values on the axes; avoidance of repetition in the different graphs). Maps must include geographic coordinates, the indication of North, and a graphic scale. All symbols should be explained within the figure or in the legend. Poor quality pictures may compromise acceptance. The number of illustrations should not be too excessive given the length of the text. Colour reproductions cannot be published unless the author(s) agree to bear the costs (580 € per colour page in 2010). Figures to be printed in grey scale must not contain colour.

## 4. Review process

All manuscripts that are not editorially rejected or sent back for updates according to the instructions for authors, are sent for peer review. Manuscripts are usually reviewed by at least two external reviewers, one of the three co-editors and possibly an associate editor. Both external reviewers and members of the advisory editorial board can be selected to review a paper. Reviewers are given one week to take in charge a manuscript and then maximum of three weeks to return their comments via the web platform. The first decision is usually made within one to two months of receipt. Authors must resubmit their manuscript within six weeks of receipt of the decision letter (4 weeks for subsequent submissions), except in cases of personal arrangements made with the co-editors. In sending their revision, authors must provide a separate letter in which they paste the comments of the reviewers and their responses directly under each point raised. Revised manuscripts can be sent to reviewers again. The average time from submission to publication is currently only 9 months. It is expected to be even shorter in the near future.

## 5. Proofs

Proofs will be sent by e-mail to the authors, along with a list of instructions as an attachment, by the publisher. Corrections of the proofs should be limited to typographical errors. The list of corrections must be sent to the publisher, within two weeks of receipt, by e-mail or fax. In the absence of comments from the authors, the proofs will be considered as publishable. The costs of



any other changes, involving time-consuming and expensive work, will be charged to author(s). If absolutely necessary, additions may be made at the end of the paper in a “Note added in proof”. Manuscripts will be published without proof reading by the authors if they change their e-mail address without updating their personal data in Editorial Manager, or if they do not provide their corrections on time.

## 6. Publication

A PDF file of the paper will be supplied free of charge by the publisher to the corresponding author for personal use. Brill is a RoMEO green publisher. Authors are allowed to post the pdf post-print version of their articles on their own personal websites free of charge. This means they can show the article exactly as it appears in print. The institute employing the author is allowed to post the post-refereed, but pre-print version of articles free of charge on its repository. The post-refereed, pre-print version means the version which contains all adaptations made after peer reviewing.

There is no page charge for publishing in *Amphibia-Reptilia*.

## 7. Copyright

It is a fundamental condition that submitted manuscripts have not been published and will not be simultaneously submitted or published elsewhere. The use of general descriptive names, trade marks, etc., in this publication, even if the former are not specifically identified, is not to be taken as a sign that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and may accordingly be used freely by anyone.

## 8. Consent to publish

### *Transfer of copyright*

By submitting a manuscript, the author agrees that the copyright for the article is transferred to the publisher if and when the article is accepted for publication. For that purpose the author needs to sign the **Consent to Publish** which will be sent with the first proofs of the manuscript.

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## 9. More on the editorial style or how to avoid not having a ms sent directly to peer review

When a manuscript does not conform with the Instructions for authors it will be sent back to authors. To avoid this type of time loss in the submission process, authors are kindly requested to check carefully the Instructions for authors before the first submission of their manuscript.

The main reasons that render a manuscript unsuitable in reference to the editorial style of *Amphibia-Reptilia* are listed hereunder, although this list is not exhaustive:

- Incorrect style of references in the text or in the reference list (e.g. no "and" between authors, volume number must be in bold, journal names must be abbreviated, mismatches between references in the text and the list; in the text: et al. for papers of more than three authors, not two).
- Incorrect style for n, P and statistical symbols (all must be in italics).
- Lack of keywords.
- Lack of abstract.
- List of authors and addresses on the title page not correctly formulated.
- Absence of double interline.
- Presence of empty lines between paragraphs.
- Pages and lines not numbered.
- Tables not presented as in the published papers (no vertical lines, use the table function in Word).
- Colour not removed from figures when this was not intended for publication (charges apply to colour pictures).
- Low resolution pictures.
- Figures that do not accord with the defined style (for maps: coordinates, North; for all figures: all symbols explained, a font that is not too small).
- The text of the manuscript in a format other than MS Word.
- Absence of acknowledgements for capture permit.
- Failure to remove comments from the right-hand column, presence of Endnote fields or of automatic footnotes.

The Co-Editors,  
Mathieu Denoël, James Harris and Sylvain Ursenbacher