

Instructions for authors

COVID-19 impact on peer review

As a result of the significant disruption that is being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic we understand that many authors and peer reviewers will be making adjustments to their professional and personal lives. As a result they may have difficulty in meeting the timelines associated with our peer review process. Please let the journal editorial office know if you need additional time. Our systems will continue to remind you of the original timelines but we intend to be flexible.

Thank you for choosing to submit your paper to us. These instructions will ensure we have everything required so your paper can move through peer review, production and publication smoothly. Please take the time to read and follow them as closely as possible, as doing so will ensure your paper matches the journal's requirements.

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Manuscript Categories

African Journal of Herpetology (AJH) serves as an outlet for original research on the biology of African amphibians and reptiles. *AJH* is an interdisciplinary journal that publishes original articles and reviews from diverse fields and disciplines, such as conservation, phylogenetics, evolution, systematics, performance, physiology, ecology, ethology, and morphology.

Original articles — are full-length manuscripts between 5 000 to 7 500 words.

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Reviews — may be solicited by the editor. Reviews should be within the aims and scope of the journal and include original commentary and/or insight on a

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Manuscript Presentation

Title page — required for all contributions and should include full title, author names and affiliations, 5-8 keywords and a suggested running head. Please also include the acknowledgments with the title page, rather than in the body of the manuscript, as this will facilitate blind peer review. Acknowledgements of individuals and organisations should be brief and recognise, *inter alia*, collecting permits, funding, etc. provided to individual authors. Any mention of authors should refer to them by initials only (e.g. GJA for Graham J. Alexander).

Abstract — a concise statement of the scope of the work, the principal findings and the conclusions and should not exceed 250 words. It should not contain references. An abstract is required for both original articles and short communications.

Main text — should be prepared in MSWord. The headings and text should be presented in 12-point Arial or Calibri font. The text should use 1.5 line spacing, with no extra line spacing, and should not include text columns, creative formatting or additional typefaces and fonts. Headings should be sentence case and never numbered. There should be no more than three heading levels: (1) **bold**, (2) **bold italics**, (3) *italics*. Endnotes, not footnotes, may be used sparingly. Tables and figures (graphs, photographs or scanned images) should not be part of the text but prepared as separate files.

Write in clear English (UK spelling). Consult the Oxford English Dictionary for spelling, capitalisation, hyphenation and abbreviation conventions, and the *Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors and Publishers* (8th edition), (2014) for scientific style and a copy of the journal for AJH style conventions.

The International System of Units (Système Internationale; SI) should be followed. Use decimal points rather than commas. Measures should be in mm, m or km rather than cm or dm. Integers less than 10 should be spelt, while those greater than 10 (including 10) should be given numerically. Group integers of thousands together with a space and do not use a comma (e.g. 10 500 and 1 230). All statistical symbols should be italicised. Follow the Fourth Edition (1999) of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

For Original Articles, the manuscript should be arranged as follows: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and References. Appendices, Tables, Legends to Figures, must follow the References. Abstract and Figures are

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The Introduction should be concise and provide the aims and context of the study in relation to other work done in the same field, but should not give an exhaustive review of the literature. Materials and Methods should provide sufficient information to allow the study to be replicated. Results should be presented with clarity and precision. Discussion should deal with the interpretation of the results, pointing out their significance with reference to the reason for undertaking the research.

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Chapter in a collection: Bruford MW, Hanotte O, Brookweld JFY, Burke T. 1992. Singlelocus and multilocus DNA Fingerprinting. In: Hoezel AR, editor. *The South American Herpetofauna: Its Origin, Evolution, and Dispersal*. Molecular Genetic Analysis in Conservation. Oxford: IRL Press.

Thesis: Russell AP. 1972. *The foot of gekkonid lizards: a study in comparative and functional anatomy*. [PhD thesis]. London: University of London.

Book: Spawls S, Howell K, Drewes R, Ashe J. 2002. *A field guide to the reptiles of East Africa*. London: Academic Press.

Article: Branch WR. 2007. A new species of tortoise of the genus *Homopus* (Chelonia: Testudinidae) from southern Namibia. *Afr. J. Herpetol.* 56:1–21.

Website: Wilgenbusch JC, Warren DL, Swofford DL. 2004. AWTY: a system for graphical exploration of MCMC convergence in Bayesian phylogenetic inference. [accessed 15 April 2011]. <http://ceb.csit.fsu.edu/awty>.

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