

For Authors

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Protocol Preparation Guidelines for Authors

The goal of Bio-protocol is to publish protocols that are not currently described in sufficient detail in the literature of the original research articles. While the condensed methods currently published by most journals allow researchers to understand the study, these condensed protocols are hard to be reproduced. Bio-protocol is filling this gap to ensure that its protocols contain sufficient details to ensure that other researchers can easily execute the protocol.

In order to reduce authors' workload during manuscript preparation, authors can submit their manuscript directly they wish via our submission system [here](#). Our dedicated editing team will help authors convert their manuscript to the protocol standard format (see the "General Guidelines" section below). So, the authors can focus on what matters most: the content.

General Guidelines

Bio-protocol encourages authors to submit manuscript text and figures as a single Microsoft Word file. We limit the word count and number of figures/videos. Figures and tables should be embedded while videos must be submitted as separate files. The manuscript should contain all the following elements: Protocol title, Author information, Keywords, Background, Materials and Reagents, Equipment, Procedure, Data analysis, Notes, Recipes, Acknowledgments, References. The recommended font and font size is Arial 10 point. Abbreviations should only be used if not defined upon first use. Click [here](#) to see an example of a standard Bio-protocol format.

Protocol Format

Authors are encouraged (but not required) to follow the standard Bio-protocol format. The Bio-protocol editors do the required formatting for authors to ensure that all protocol submissions follow the standard Bio-protocol format. Protocols published on Bio-protocol consist of the following 13 elements:

1. Protocol Title

The title should indicate the goal of the protocol and provide enough details to help a prospective researcher decide whether your protocol is of interest to him/her. Keep in mind that your protocol could be useful for researchers in a completely different field. When using specific terminology, make sure that your title can be understood by a wide range of scientists.

2. Authors Information

Please provide complete affiliation information (department, research institution, city, country) for each author.

3. Abstract

The abstract should provide a brief summary of the protocol and highlight the goal of the protocol. It should be one sentence relevant to the context in which this assay/method was developed.

4. Keywords

Please provide 5-8 keywords for your protocol, which will help readers to easily find your protocol using search engines.

5. Background

This section should provide the rationale for developing the protocol, and place the protocol in the context of the field.

existing state of the science. Authors should use this section to discuss other published protocols and motivation to develop the current protocol.

6. Materials and Reagents

Imagine that the reader of the protocol is a novice. This section should provide a detailed list of all materials and reagents required for the successful completion of the experiment. Please, specify manufacturer catalog numbers. We also recommend that authors provide storage temperature and shelf-life for important reagents.

7. Equipment

The same goes for equipment. Every piece of equipment used in the experiment needs to be listed along with its specific catalog/model number.

8. Procedure

Authors are encouraged to list all steps of the procedure chronologically as it makes the protocol much easier to follow. At crucial steps, authors should make sure to include personal remarks, especially if it would increase the likelihood of successfully repeating the experiment. The experimental procedure should be described in present tense.

In this section, authors should provide:

- i. Images and videos for the crucial and delicate steps to aid the researcher execute successfully the procedure.
- ii. Representative example(s) of data to illustrate the type of results obtained. We would like to encourage authors to submit original results obtained from scientific software and tools (e.g. Excel and ImageJ) and avoid misleading manipulations of the data (e.g. artificial enhancement of specific image features using graphics software like Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop).

9. Data analysis

In this section, authors should provide information about data processing and analysis, including any software applied, criteria for data inclusion or exclusion, and details of replicates including independent experiments. If information has been presented to the journal in which the original research paper was published, authors should clearly state it in this section and provide a link with proper citation for readers to access the mentioned data. In some cases, the original research paper has restricted access, in which case authors should request permission to "reprint" the numerical analysis in Bio-protocol.

10. Notes

In addition to specific remarks included in the "Procedure" itself, authors are encouraged to provide general notes that are relevant to the protocol, such as:

- i. Notes about reproducibility and variability in your hands;
- ii. Additional notes, technical tips, and cautionary points that may improve the procedure.

11. Recipes

We request authors to be precise about the ingredients they use (e.g. buffer or media) and the conditions for their experiments including storage temperature and shelf-life of each solution. Note that minor deviations (such as catalog number of a reagent, or the type of water used), when not precisely followed, can lead to the failure of an experiment. Authors should indicate whether any materials are subject to MTAs.

12. Acknowledgments

Authors are expected to acknowledge funding sources that have supported their work. If the protocol is modified from previous work, please acknowledge the previous work here as well. Authors should use this section to declare any conflicts of interest or competing interests.

13. References

Authors are requested to include all relevant literature. It is not necessary to format the reference list as long as it is taken care of by the Bio-protocol editing team. An example of the Bio-protocol reference format is:

Bindschiedler, L. V., Dewdney, J., Blee, K. A., Stone, J. M., Asai, T., Plotnikov, J., Denoux, C., Hayes, T., Gerriera, R., Ausubel, F. M. and Bolwell, G. P. (2006). Peroxidase-dependent apoplastic oxidative burst in Arabidopsis confers pathogen resistance. *Plant J* 47(6): 851-863.

Figures, Videos and Tables

Figures: For the original submission, Bio-protocol encourages authors to embed figures in the text file (except for large figures that are included in a composite PDF). Upon acceptance, Bio-protocol requires individual figure files in standard format.

formats (e.g. TIFF, JPEG, PNG) with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. The width of regular figures is required to be less than 147.4 mm. We request that in-figure text be 8-12 point. Figure panels should be labeled with "A, B, C, etc." (bold). Use the same typeface for all figures.

Image files should not be manipulated in any way that could result in misinterpreting the original image. For more information, see ['What's in a picture? The temptation of image manipulation'](#) by Rossner and Yamada (Journal of Cell Biology). Examples of inappropriate manipulation and valuable guidance on acceptable practice.

Videos: For video, a typical smart phone camera is adequate as long as the video is clear. Bio-protocol requires standard video formats be used (e.g. MOV, MPEG, AVI).

Tables: Tables should be numbered chronologically as they appear in the protocol, and should appear after they are cited in the text. There are no limits on table size; the Bio-protocol editing team will either adjust the table appropriately for optimal online presentation or advise the author to include them as a supplementary file if the table is too large.








All figures, videos, and tables should be supported by an accurate and relevant title and legend.

Nomenclature

The use of standard scientific nomenclature is required. Species, genes, genotypes, and mutations should be named according to standard conventions. Genetic databases for the species of interest should be consulted to ensure that the recommended name is used. The protocol encourages authors to refer to organisms by their common name (if a common name applies), and the Latin name in parentheses at first use. Authors should determine whether the nomenclature they have used is consistent with accepted community standards.

Numerical data

Bio-protocol requires authors to provide information about data processing and analysis, including any statistical tests applied, criteria for data inclusion or exclusion, and details of replicates including independent experiments. If the information is already available in the original research paper, authors should indicate this in the "Data Availability" section of the manuscript and provide a link with proper citation.

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  	Reviewers Authors Contact Us	Editorial Criteria Copyright & Permissions	