Summary

- Single column, double line spaced
- Within the word count (no more than 7000-8000 words for Standard Articles, 3000-4000 words for Applications and Practical Tools)
- Continuous line and page numbering throughout
- Clearly defined manuscript structure as standard: Author details, Abstract (must be numbered 1-4 according to Manuscript Specifications), Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Figures and Tables with captions
- Figures and Tables can be embedded within the text where referenced to facilitate reviewing
- Author Contributions (if >1 author – see Authorship Policy).
- Statement of where you intend to archive your data

Research article:

should have a maximum of 7000-8000 words (including tables/figure captions and references list) and describe new methods and how they may be used. We place emphasis on methods that are applicable as broadly as possible. Papers describing methods that apply to one species or system are unlikely to meet these criteria, unless authors are able to show that their methods can be generalised.

Title Page:

- A concise and informative title. Do not include the authorities for taxonomic names.
- A list of all authors' names with names and addresses of Institutions.
- The name, address and e-mail address of the correspondence author.
- A running headline of not more than 45 characters.

Abstract:

The abstract must not exceed 350 words and should list the main results and conclusions, using FOUR simple, factual, numbered statements:

1. Set the context for and purpose of the work;
2. Indicate the approach and methods;
3. Outline the main results;
4. Identify the conclusions and the wider implications.

Key-words:

A list in alphabetical order not exceeding eight words or short phrases. The most important key-words should appear in the title and the abstract as well as the key-word list.

Introduction:

This should state the reason for doing the work, the nature of the hypothesis or hypotheses under consideration, and should outline the essential background.

Materials and Methods:

Include sufficient details for the work to be repeated. Where specific equipment and materials are named, the manufacturer's details (name, city and country) should be given so that readers can trace specifications by contacting the manufacturer. Where commercially available software has been used, details of the supplier should be given in brackets or the reference given in full in the reference list. Do not describe or refer to commonplace statistical tests in this section but allude to them briefly in Results.

Results:

State the results and draw attention in the text to important details shown in tables and figures.

Discussion:

This should point out the significance of the results in relation to the reasons for doing the work, and place them in the context of other work.

Conclusions (optional)

Acknowledgements (optional)

Figures and tables:

Figures, including photographs, should be referred to in the article text as Fig. 1, Figs 2–4. References to tables should not be abbreviated, i.e. Table 1. All lettering and symbols must be clear and easy to read. Legends should provide enough details for the figure or table to be understood without reference to the main text. Information (e.g. keys) that appear in the figure should not be duplicated in the legend.

Figures and Tables should be presented in the manuscript file with their legends and may be either embedded in a relevant position in the main text or placed at the end of the document.

References:

In-text citations should follow the author-date method whereby the author's last name and the year of publication for the source should appear in the text, for example, (Jones, 1998). The complete reference list should appear alphabetically by name at the end of the paper. Please note that a DOI should be provided for all references where available.

You will not be asked to reformat references during submission or peer review however, a sample of the most common entries in our reference lists appears below.

Supporting Information (optional):

Essential supporting information can be published in the online version of the article. Instructions for the preparation of Supporting Information are given here. Note, however, that the BES does notallow data sets to be uploaded as Supporting Information. All relevant data must be archived in accordance with the BES data archiving policy .