

Guidelines for *Nature Ecology & Evolution* News & Views

News & Views articles facilitate communication of new research findings to the wider ecology and evolution community. *News & Views* articles are short (~800–1000 words), and have as much in common with journalistic news reports as with the formal scientific literature. They should explain the advances presented by the new paper and communicate a sense of excitement, yet provide a critical evaluation of the research and its context. It is essential that the piece be written with a general ecology and evolution audience in mind.

1. General structure

The 'news' should be highlighted in a brief opening paragraph to attract the attention of those who are not experts in the field. This paragraph should explicitly refer to the paper under discussion and touch on the general significance of the work. More detail, background and explanation should follow, including your own 'views'. The text is often best concluded with comment on the limitations and implications of the new work, and on future research directions. Authors should avoid overly referring to their own work.

2. Figures

A single figure can be used to explain the new findings, the background science or how these fit together. Our art department can turn authors' sketches into publication-quality graphics, as long as the sketches are clear. Please include the draft figure with your submission; if your idea is complex or involves multiple third-party images (eg. photos or drawings), please discuss this with the editor as early as possible. Figure captions should be succinct but self-contained, and will usually reference the paper under discussion.

Photo suggestions are a welcome alternative where a Figure is not applicable; please provide contact information for the photo owner (we will source rights permission separately). Alternatively, we can source photos from stock libraries, but please provide detailed applicable information for photo sourcing eg. species name.

3. Titles

Titles for *News & Views* articles are open to discussion with the commissioning editor. They should be short and contain no punctuation marks or abbreviations. *News & Views* articles also carry a 'subject strapline' of one or two words to define the general subject area of the article, and a 'standfirst', a one- or two-

sentence introductory item that precedes the main text and is intended to entice readers to read on.

4. References

Reference number is not restricted, but up to 20 usually appropriate. Please add references sequentially in the main text with superscript numbers. The paper being discussed should be included in the reference list and be referred to (ideally in the first paragraph) in the form "Writing in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, XXX et al...". Please list full references at the end of the article.

5. Acknowledgements and authorship

Acknowledgements are not allowed, nor are grant numbers. There should be no more than two authors.

6. Sending the article

Please email your draft article to the commissioning editor. If you will out of contact for any extended period following submission, please provide details. After editing, we will send an invitation for you to upload your final version to our manuscript tracking system, prior to formal acceptance.

7. Editing and corrections

Articles are on occasion heavily edited, but authors are given opportunity to ensure accuracy by being sent an edited version of the text to consider and correct if necessary. The final submitted version is then copy-edited. Proofs, including the Figure, will then be sent to the author for checking before publication.

Questions can be sent to your commissioning editor or ecoevo@nature.com