

Author Guidelines – Commentaries

New Phytologist commentaries, which are commissioned, are short pieces that highlight a paper that has recently been accepted for publication in *New Phytologist*. The Commentary explains in a nutshell, what the research paper covers and why it is a significant addition to the literature. The Commentary is published in the Forum section of the same issue as the highlighted article and links to the article online. Commentaries are short articles in the range 1200–1500 words and authors are encouraged to be positive and forward thinking. We feel that such Commentaries are useful to other scientists, stimulating cross-disciplinary interest and highlighting particularly important research. We therefore like to place an emphasis on making the research accessible to a wide audience. It would certainly be appropriate also to consider this area of research in a more general sense. The proportion of the Commentary dealing with wider issues can be determined by the author. Often in Commentaries the research being commented on will almost act as a 'way in' to discussion of wider questions. Authors are welcome to bring a co-author on board, and are encouraged to use one or two figures in addition to help the explanation or simply to illustrate the general area. Example Commentaries can be found in published issues of *New Phytologist* on Wiley Online Library (www.newphytologist.com). Commentaries can be submitted to the Production Manager by email (n.hetherington@lancaster.ac.uk) as a word attachment. Authors are reminded that *New Phytologist* Central Office will deal with copyediting of the text and formatting.

Article style and structure

The full Author Guidelines and submission instructions are available at www.newphytologist.com/authors, but style notes specific to Commentaries are included below.

Presentation of the Commentary

Text should be 1.5-spaced with setting for letter (8.5 × 11 inch) or A4 (210 × 297 mm). Use a consistent font throughout, for example Times New Roman 12-point (symbol palette for additional characters). Lines and pages should be numbered. Both American and British English are acceptable if used consistently.

Title page

On the first page, include a concise title, the authors and their addresses. Where authors have different addresses, use numbered superscripts to refer to each address provided. State the author for correspondence and include their telephone and email details. **Word counts** for the main body of the text (not including references or figures/tables/boxes) plus the number of figures, tables and references must be stated on the front page.

Quote

A brief quote extracted from the Commentary should be included after the article title.

Main text

The article should be 1200–1500 words. The highlighted article should be cited in the first paragraph in the style 'In this issue of *New Phytologist*, Smith *et al.* (pp. 000–000) ...'.

References

The highlighted article should be included in the References section (the page numbers should be listed as 000–000).

References (a maximum of 15) should be listed at the end of the text in alphabetical order; in-text citations should take the following format: single author (Porter, 2018); two-author (Abraham & Elbaum, 2017); and three or more authors (Sinkkonen *et al.*, 2018). Full style information, including links to reference management templates, is provided in the full Author Guidelines (www.newphytologist.com/authors).

Key words

Five to eight key words/short phrases must be given after the References.

Figures, tables and boxes

Your Commentary may include up to two display items (figures, tables or boxes). These must be self-explanatory and each presented on a separate page outside the main text, but as part of the same document. Display elements should always be referred to in the main text and should be numbered in the style Fig. 1, Table 1, Box 1.

Abbreviations

All non-standard abbreviations must first appear in parentheses following their meaning written in full at first mention in the main text and each figure and table legend.

New Phytologist standard and preferred abbreviations can be found in the Submission guide for Authors (<http://www.newphytologist.com/submissionguide>).

Submission

Submit your Commentary via the New Phytologist ScholarOne Manuscripts site (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/newphytologist/>) or via emailing the Production Manager (n.hetherington@lancaster.ac.uk).