

Instructions for Authors

Vertebrate Zoology

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Generalities

Vertebrate Zoology is a scientific journal published by the Museum of Zoology Dresden (Museum für Tierkunde Dresden, MTD). The official homepage of the journal is at www.vertebrate-zoology.de.

Research fields covered by *Vertebrate Zoology* are the systematics, taxonomy, phylogenetics, genetics, morphology/anatomy, ecology, biogeography, faunistics, and palaeontology of vertebrates. Original contributions as well as review papers are welcome. Descriptions of new taxa should be integrated into a proper context (e.g. taxonomic, phylogenetic or biogeographical).

Submission of a manuscript implies that the same work has not been published or submitted elsewhere. We ask authors to follow carefully the guidelines given below. For details of style going beyond the explanations therein, please consult a recent issue of *Vertebrate Zoology* (vol. 57 or later). It is anticipated that prior to submission authors make every effort to make the text concise and linguistically correct. Manuscripts not conforming with the listed directives or requiring extensive linguistic improvement are liable to be returned to the author(s). The printing format of *Vertebrate Zoology* is A4 (210 mm × 297 mm), the type area is 165 mm × 250 mm.

All manuscripts will be reviewed by two referees. Mainly based on their reports the editor and/or the associate editors decide whether a manuscript will be accepted for publication. The associate editors also act as referees. When the review procedure is completed, the review documents and the editors' statement of (non-) acceptance will be sent to the corresponding author. If a manuscript requires major revision, final acceptance may only be decided after a revised version of the manuscript has been received and checked by the editors and/or the referees.

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no royalties will be paid to authors. Fifty reprints of each paper are free of charge. Additional reprints may be ordered during the editing procedure. Furthermore, authors will receive PDFs of their published papers free of charge and are welcome to further distribute them for non-commercial purposes. The PDFs will also be freely accessible at www.vertebrate-zoology.de and if the author agrees may be published online prior to the printed version (usually soon after the changes from the page proof stage have been incorporated). It is anticipated that authors submitting a manuscript to *Vertebrate Zoology* accept these rules.

General layout

1. Title page

A Title page including an informative and concise title; a running title of up to 45 characters; all authors' full names, home institutions with full postal addresses, and e-mail addresses (if available); the name, phone, and fax (if available) numbers of the author to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

2. Abstract Page

An Abstract page, which includes an Abstract not exceeding 200 words and giving a succinct account of the subject, results and conclusions; and a list of up to 10 keywords. The Abstract should include references neither to previous literature nor to tables, figures, or chapters of the submitted paper.

3. Introduction

A short introduction to the background and the reason for the work.

4. Materials and Methods

Sufficient experimental details must be given to enable other workers to repeat the work. The full binominal name should be given for all organisms. The International Code of Zoology Nomenclature must be strictly followed. Cite the authors of species on their first mention.

5. Results

These should be concise and should not include methods or discussion. Text, tables and figures should not duplicate the same information. New taxa must be distinguished from related taxa. The abbreviations gen. n., sp. n., syn. n. and comb. n. should be used to distinguish all new taxa, synonymies or combinations. Primary types must be deposited in a museum. In taxonomic papers the species heading should be followed by synonyms, material examined and distribution, description and comments. All material examined should be listed in a similar, compact and easily intelligible format. The information should be in the same language as the text.

6. Discussion

This should not be excessive and should not repeat results nor contain new information about one's own results, but should emphasize the significance and relevance of the results reported.

7. References

In the Reference list references should follow in alphabetical order. List all and only those sources that are mentioned in the text as MUELLER (1818), or (MUELLER 1818, 1819; SCHNEIDER 1820), or (MUELLER & SCHNEIDER 1820; SCHNEIDER et al. 1821). The full titles of journals should be given. Please use the following format and pay attention to the punctuation and types of dashes used:

- EIGENMANN, C. H. (1917–1927): The American Characidae. – *Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College*, **43** (1–5): 1–428.
- GÉRY, J. (1978): Characoids of the world. – *tfh-publications*, Neptune City inc. 672 pp.
- STEINDACHNER, F. (1882): Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Flußfische Südamerikas (IV). III. Über einige Siluroiden und Characinen von Canelos (Ecuador) und aus dem Amazonenstromen. – *Denkschriften der Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Klasse der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien*, XLVI: 26–41.

8. Tables

Tables should be numbered using Arabic numerals. The legend should start like 'Tab. 1. Title...'. The title and explanations must make the meaning of the clear without reference to the text. All tables must be referred to the text.

9. Figures

These may be line drawings, halftones or photographs. Original photographs must be sharp, clear, and of high contrast, and all should be numbered consecutively, and their position indicated in the text. Original drawings will be returned automatically. *Vertebrate Zoology* declines responsibility for lost or damaged slides or other documents. Line drawings have to be scanned at a resolution not less than 600 dpi, colour photographs have to be scanned at 450 dpi, and halftone (grey scale) illustrations at 450 dpi (all for 100% of the final printing size). Legends to figures should be typed in numerical order on a separate sheet.

Depository of specimens

The editor urges, in line with the recent edition of the ICZN, all authors of newly described species-group taxa to deposit primary types in publicly accessible collections. A clear statement about type depositions within the original description is mandatory.