

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

Instructions to Authors

The scope of the journal and types of papers

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY is an international, peer-reviewed journal covering all aspects of reproduction in vertebrates. The journal is published three times per year in the months of March, July and November. REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY invites original research papers, short communications, review articles and commentaries dealing with reproductive physiology, endocrinology, immunology, molecular and cellular biology, receptor studies, animal breeding as well as andrology, embryology, infertility, assisted reproduction and contraception. Papers from both basic and clinical research will be considered.

Address for submission

Manuscripts should be sent to Prof. S.Stokłosowa, Editor-in-Chief, *Reproductive Biology*, ul. Romana Ingardena 6, 30-060 Kraków, Poland (Tel: 48-12-6332455, Fax: 48-12-6340785, e-mail: stok@zuk.iz.uj.edu.pl) or to the North American Receiving Editor: C.Rick Barb, Animal Physiology Research Unit, USDA-ARS Russell Research Center, P.O. Box 5677, Athens, GA 30604-5677, USA (Fax: 706 546 3586, e-mail: rbarb@saa.ars.usda.gov).

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General instructions

Authors must give written assurance that no part of their manuscript reporting original work is being considered for publication, in whole or in part, by another journal. The corresponding author must affirm that all of the authors have read and approved of the manuscript.

Three full copies of the manuscript (including figures, photographs and tables), written in English, are required. Manuscripts should be typed

(preferably in a Times font, with a size of at least 12 points), double spaced, on one side of the paper only, with at least 2 cm margins on all sides. Pages should be numbered in the top right-hand corner. It also is possible to submit a paper by e-mail.

Manuscripts should be arranged in the following order: Title page, Summary, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figure legends, and Figures. Lengthy papers may require subheadings for clarification. The lines should be numbered down the left-hand edge of each page.

Manuscripts should be concise and consistent in style, spelling, and use of the abbreviations. Spelling should follow that used in Webster's Dictionary. The use of SI units is required. All abbreviations must be defined individually the first time they occur. Abbreviations with more than one meaning should be avoided.

A page charge has been established at the rate of 10 USD (or 30 PLN) per page. If necessary, Authors will be charged for the costs of English correction and color figures.

Original research papers

Including figures, tables, and references, original contributions should not exceed 20 manuscript pages. A printing charge of US\$40.00 per page will be levied when the paper exceeds the limit.

Title page: should include the following: the title of the article (concise but explicit), the surname and forenames (in full) of each author, the affiliation of the authors, a short title (running head) of no more than 50 characters (including spaces), and corresponding author's address, telephone, fax number and e-mail address.

Summary: a single paragraph of not more than 250 words, should state the objective of the study and the methods used, and should contain the main findings of the paper and the conclusions reached. Footnotes, references, cross-references to figures or tables, and undefined abbreviations are not allowed. The summary should be followed by 5 to 10 key words.

Introduction: should set the study in context of the subject. Brief presentation of the relevant findings in the field of the study together with

an explanation why the study was done should be followed by a clear statement of the objectives of the study.

Materials and Methods

Animals: common names and correct taxonomic names should both be included if the organism is not well known. The breed or strain and source of animals should be stated and details of age, weight, sex and housing should be provided. Experiments with animals should be performed according to approved national guidelines for animal care. Details of procedures and anaesthetics used and doses given should be provided.

Human subjects: Authors must include an assurance that the work was approved by a medical ethics committee and that consent has been obtained from patients.

Methods: this section should contain a careful description of the experimental design. Description of methods and procedures should include all information needed for other workers to reproduce the results. If well established methods are used, a reference to the technique should be given. If the methods used are new or substantially modified, a full description of any modification should be provided. Materials should be named specifically, including the manufacturer, city, state, or country where the equipment or supplies were obtained. The generic name, dose, and route of administration should be given for drugs. The composition of buffers or culture media should be specified. For international units “iu” should be used. For solutions, the term % must be defined as w/v or v/v.

Statistics: The design of the study and the data sources should be clearly identified. Sufficient details of the statistical analyses should be given to enable a reader to assess their adequacy and validity for testing the hypotheses of interest. If nonstandard methods or analyses have been applied, additional details or relevant references should be provided. The numbers of experimental units and the way in which they have been allocated to treatments should be described. If observations have been omitted from the analysis this must be justified.

Results: should be presented in text, tables, and figures as appropriate. All data displayed in the tables or figures should not be repeated in the text,

only important observations should be emphasized or summarized. Tables and figures should be cited in the text in numerical order.

Discussion: the meaning of results should be discussed in this section. Observations should be related to relevant studies. New and important aspects of the study should be emphasized. Theoretical and practical implications of the findings should be outlined. The authors are asked to avoid statements and conclusions that are not supported by the data. The conclusions should be clearly linked with the objectives of the study and they should be summarized in a brief statement.

Footnotes: should be avoided if possible but if essential should be designated by superscript Arabic numerals. Each footnote should be placed at the bottom of the manuscript page where reference to it is made.

Acknowledgement: acknowledgement of technical help and of financial support may be mentioned in this section.

References: all entries in the reference list must correspond to references in the text and vice versa. Referenced articles must have been published in peer-review publications that are generally accessible. Articles that are accepted for publication but are not yet published may be listed as “in press” in the reference list. Three copies of papers quoted as “in press” in the reference list must be provided for the referees. Papers presented at meetings and symposia as well as abstracts are not acceptable as references. Exceptions include articles that are three pages long or have been published in a journal. Unpublished work (manuscripts in preparation, manuscript submitted but not yet accepted for publication, personal communication) should be referred to in the text in the following way: (W. Jones, unpublished) or (C. Smith, personal communication).

In reference list: the references should appear in alphabetical order, preceded by an Arabic numeral. The authors’ names are listed in alphabetical order, and in chronological order for each author. If there is more than one author, the order is as follows: publication of the single author in chronological order; publication of the same author with one co-author in chronological order and in alphabetical order of the second author, publications of the author with more than one co-author in chronological order. Journal titles should be given in full. References should be in the format of the following example:

Journal article (all authors must be mentioned)

Naz RK **1999** Involvement of protein serine and threonine phosphorylation in human sperm capacitation. *Biology of Reproduction* **60** 1402-1409.

Book

Sambrook J, Fritsch E, Maniatis T **1989** *Molecular Cloning*. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, New York.

Chapter in a book

Leymarie P, Martial J **1993** The corpus luteum from cycle to gestation. In *Reproduction in Mammals and Man*, pp 413-433. Eds Thibault C, Levasseur M-C, Hunter RHF. Ellipses, France.

In text: The references are cited in the text with appropriate numbers enclosed in square brackets. When authors are cited in the text, within a phrase and not just between brackets, the following form should be used: Smith [reference number], Jones and Brown [reference number], Williams et al. [reference number].

Tables and figures: should be typed (double-spaced) on separate pages, numbered consecutively, with Arabic numerals in order of mention in the text. The tables and figures, including photographs, should be referred to in the text by their number (tab. 1, fig. 1). The numbering of the tables must not be combined with that of the figures. All terms, abbreviations, and symbols must correspond to those in the text. Each figure should be self-explanatory. Each figure/table should be clearly identified, in pencil, on the reverse by its number, the name(s) of the author(s), and, if necessary, indication of its top. Figure legends should be submitted on a separate sheet.

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Line-drawings and photographs: Photographs and drawings submitted for publication with the manuscript must be sharp and of high contrast. Line drawings should have a white background and should not be enclosed in boxes. Photographs should be presented in the form of plates to be reproduced without reduction (maximum size for "full page" illustration: 16.5 x 24 cm). Photographs should be originals (i.e. not already reproduced). Their suitability for reproduction is decided by the publisher; special request of the authors will be taken into account if possible.

Color illustrations: Authors are responsible for the cost of color figures. Information on the amount of printing costs will be given by the publisher.

Short communications

Short communication of results that are of current interest and significance should yield not more than six manuscript pages, including figures, tables and references. An abstract of not more than nine lines is required. In other aspects submitted manuscripts should comply with the instructions for original research papers. Envelopes and correspondence should be clearly marked as “short communication”. The date of acceptance assigned to the paper will be that on which the final version suitable for inclusion in the journal is received.

Review articles

Reviews will be considered and subjected to the usual refereeing process. Many, but not all reviews are invited, authors wishing to submit a review should contact the Editor. There are no special requirements for the organization of review material, but papers should in general conform with the requirements of the original research papers.

The Editorial Board retains the right of returning, before evaluation, manuscripts to authors who do not comply with these recommendations.

Reviewing process

All manuscripts are reviewed by at least two referees and the Editor decision is based on their evaluation. In some instances the opinion of members of the Editorial Board is solicited. Following the return of the reviewed manuscripts, the authors are given three months to submit a revised version. After this deadline, revised papers are treated as new manuscripts and go through a new review process. **Editor may return to authors without review any manuscript deemed to be of inadequate quality or inappropriate for REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY.**

Manuscripts on disks

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