

An international journal for fundamental and applied scientific research in agricultural and marine sciences.

Author Information

Description

The **Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences** (JAMS) is an international peer-reviewed journal that publishes original fundamental and applied research articles in a wide variety of disciplines of the agricultural and marine sciences. The journal provides a forum for specialists and practitioners and brings together quality papers dealing with agricultural economics, natural resource economics, animal and veterinary sciences, bio-resources, biotechnologies, soil sciences, water management, agricultural engineering, fisheries, marine sciences, food science, human nutrition, plant production, plant protection, rural environment, coastal zone management, oceanography, etc. All issues of the Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences are freely available online and do not carry any publication charges.

Types of manuscript published

Manuscripts submitted for publication in the Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences must be based on original work and have not been published, accepted for publication or submitted for publication elsewhere. The journal accepts the following types of manuscripts:

1. **Editorials** (by invitation only)
2. **Reviews** (Review papers not exceeding 6000 words or 14 printed pages including figures, with prior approval from the Editor in Chief)
3. **Research Articles** (Original research not exceeding 6000 words or 14 printed pages including figures)
4. **Notes** (Original research papers not exceeding 3000 words or 6 printed pages including figures and bibliography)
5. **Perspectives** (short papers, < 3000 words or 6 pages, that present an opinion or a novel interpretation of existing ideas)
6. **Snapshots** (single page paper focusing on a high quality illustration, and a very short —3 references— bibliography).

Submission

New manuscript should be submitted online through the journal management system (<http://journals.sfu.ca/squjams/index.php/squjams/login>). Note that authors who are not yet registered with the journal management system, need first to create an identity by registering on the website. Once registered, all authors can login with their chosen username and password.

Reviewing policy

The Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences uses a blind review process in which the peer reviewers' names are not disclosed to the authors. Although the reviewer can make himself known should he choose to do so. Before submitting the papers for review the editors will evaluate the manuscript suitability for the journal (language, readership, format), insure the completeness of the submission and make an initial "plagiarism" assessment of the manuscript.

If suitable for the journal, the editors will choose 2-3 reviewers among researchers working in a similar field and listed in the journal database. The selection of reviewers is based on several factors: expertise, reputation, specific recommendations of the author or of a reviewer, and our own previous experience of a reviewer's characteristics. The editors will request a minimum of two independent reviews but can if necessary request additional evaluations, particularly if 2 reviewers have severely contradictory opinions on the papers.

Following the reviews, the section editor will place the manuscript among 4 categories:

1. **accepted with minor modifications** (mostly editorial and typographic errors)
2. **accepted conditionally to a revision** of the papers following the recommendations and specific comments or concerns of the reviewers (the reviewers found incomplete or unclear statements that needs to be revised; some of the results may need to be reinterpreted or some figures redrawn; part of the discussion may need some additional work). The acceptance remains conditional until the editor is satisfied with the revision.
3. **acceptable** but after only after a second round of reviews (the paper cannot be accepted without a thorough revision of its structure or significant changes in its presentation. The author will receive all comments from the first set of reviewers and requested to resubmit the paper with the suggested modifications and amendments.
4. **not acceptable**. There are major flaws in the experimental design, sampling protocol or analytical protocol that preclude a sound analysis. The Reviewers found significant overlap with published results.

The editor will then inform the corresponding author of his editorial decision and convey the comments and suggestions of the reviewers to which the author has to respond normally within 2-4 weeks. Authors may contact the editor through the journal email system if they require an extension.

After reception of a revised manuscript, it may be subjected to an additional round of review, particularly if the manuscript was originally placed in the "acceptable" category. The final decision of acceptance or rejection lies with the Editor in Chief in coordination with the whole editorial board and Sultan Qaboos University Academic Publication Board.

All communications between authors, editors and reviewers are made using the Editorial Management System at:

<http://journals.sfu.ca/squjams/index.php/squjams/index>

Authorship

Authorship must be based on all of the following criteria: (1) substantial contribution to the conception and design of the study, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation of the data; (2) drafting the article or revising it critically and; (3) final approval of the version of the manuscript to be published. Contributors who do not meet all 3 of these criteria should be listed in the acknowledgements section of the manuscript. The corresponding author is responsible for taking all necessary coordinating actions for reviewing the manuscript, receiving authorization from other authors, etc.

Scientific misconduct

According to standard practices in scientific journals, SQU Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences follows the recommendations of Council of Science Editors (www.councilscienceeditors.org) and define misconduct as:

1. **Data Corruption:** falsifying data, inventing data, ignoring part of the data purposefully, or any form of omission, suppression or distortion of data.
5. **Plagiarism:** using published or unpublished texts, ideas or thoughts of another writer without acknowledgements and presenting them as one's own. Plagiarism includes duplicate publications or submissions in the same or in another language. The journal will follow COPE guidelines to identify and manage cases of plagiarism or text recycling.
6. **Authorship misconduct:** Exclusion of involved researchers, or inclusion of researchers who have not contributed significantly to the work (see section on authors), or publication without the consent of all authors.
7. **Ethical misconducts:** Failure to follow legal requirements in acquiring the necessary permission to sample, collect, export or import specimens, collect data, use chemicals or obtain ethical permits.

SQU Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences takes all forms of misconduct very seriously. It follows the Committee for Publication Ethics (COPE) recommendations and guidelines (publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines). Final decisions regarding scientific misconducts are taken by the Editor in Chief.

Types of papers

The journal accepts several types of articles and recommends the following submission length and subsections

Editorials (by invitation only)

Editorials should not exceed 2000 words and a maximum of 25 references.

Reviews

Reviews should not exceed 6000 words and 14 pages and approximately 100 References. Authors who would like to submit a review are requested to send to the Editor in chief (edsqujams@squ.edu.om) a one page letter of intention outlining the focus and scope of the projected review before submitting their

review online. Although structured, the abstract does not have to follow the “5 section template”.

Original Research Articles (Research papers not exceeding 6000 words)

Research papers should not exceed 6000 words or 14 pages and 50 references. They should be divided into the following 6 sections: Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussions and References. Additional sections such as Acknowledgements, Conclusions or Recommendations can also be included. Although merging results and discussion is possible, it is not a structure encouraged by the editorial board.

Notes (original research not exceeding 5 printed pages)

Notes are short original research articles. They should not exceed 2000 words and 30 references or 4 printed pages. They should have the same overall structure as Research Articles including a structured abstract.

Perspectives (short papers, < 3000 words)

Perspective papers are short papers that present an opinion or novel interpretation of existing ideas or data. They may also present an historical perspective on one of the themes of the journal. These manuscripts should follow a structure and a logical sequence of section related to the content and purpose of the paper.

Snapshots

Snapshot manuscripts are single page paper focusing on a high quality illustration. The paper itself should not exceed one page and list only a maximum of 3 references. Snapshot papers illustrate the common say “One picture is worth a thousand words”. The topic of the papers should be based on a high quality photographic evidence of rare organisms, new records, unusual observation, severe pathology, etc. These submissions, because of their short nature, do not have abstracts.

Language and translations

The journal publishes papers in the English language with translation into Arabic of the title, authors and abstract of all papers. Arabic speaking authors are invited to provide the editorial board with an Arabic translation of the title and abstract. For non-Arabic speakers, the board will provide a translation. British English spelling, usage, and punctuation are used throughout the journal. Papers accepted for publication will be edited by the Journal editorial office for conciseness, clarity, grammar, spelling and style. Should the editing be extensive and possibly alter the intended meaning of the authors, queries will be sent by email to the corresponding author requesting clarifications.

Style

The Journal follows the overall evolution of the scientific language. When preparing manuscripts please avoid jargon and long or complex sentences but aim

at clear, concise and simple grammatical structures. The editorial board encourages the active voice when it is appropriate.

Abstract

The Editorial board strongly suggests the use of a “structured abstract” not exceeding 300 words. These abstracts, although composed of a single paragraph, include 5 sections that summarize the content of the paper: introduction, objectives, methodology, results and conclusion. Each section is introduced by a heading followed by a colon and a series of sentences.

Preparation of the manuscript

All papers will be typeset by the editorial team of the journal at publication time. Therefore, the editorial board requests the authors to follow a clear and simple format for their manuscript facilitating the reviewing and editorial process. Templates for Microsoft Word and Apple Pages are provided to assist authors in preparing their manuscripts.

The editorial board recommends the use of a classic typeface (Times, Helvetica, Garamond, Myriad-Pro, ...) with 12 point size and at least 14-16 points leading (line spacing) for the text of the manuscript with minimum formatting as most of layout and typographical formats will be applied at the typesetting stage. The manuscript page size should be A4 or Us Letter and the editorial board recommends that a margin of at least 3 cm be included on all sides of the paper.

To facilitate the reviewing process, the text of the submission should have line numbers in the left hand margin restarting at 1 on each page and a page number in the footer of the document. Use standard typographic conventions for the text presentation: italic typeface for species names (not underline), bold face for vectors, true superscript and subscripts when necessary. Emphasis is better marked through italic rather than bold face.

Typography

The journal uses standard typographic convention throughout. The editorial board recommends that you follow these in the preparation of the manuscript.

Italic should be used throughout for the Latin name of species (please do not use underlined text). Emphasis can be placed on some elements of text using bold face.

Abbreviations: Avoid non-standard abbreviations whenever possible, particularly in headings and subheading. If, for the sake of conciseness, the author wishes to use abbreviations, define each abbreviation when they first appear in each section of the manuscript. Standard abbreviation such as RNA, DNA, ATP, ADP, EDTA... do not need to be defined as most readers will be familiar with them. Others such as PAH (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon) or ICP (Inductively Coupled Plasma) should be defined as most reader may not be familiar with their meaning.

Units: Always use the International System of Units (SI) for all units. For large or small units use the standard multiplier prefix for the units (k for 1000, M for 1000000, m for 1/1000 and μ for 10^{-6}). Prefer whenever possible negative exponents to slash: $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ rather than kg/m^2 . To separate units, use either a mid-line point (·

=ASCII code 183 – Unicode U+00B7) or a non-breaking space. The abbreviated symbols (k, kg, s, P, W, etc.) should be used whenever possible and combined with Arabic numbers (5 kg, 2 m², 5.2 MP, 6.78 MW·h). The only exception is when a number is grammatically placed at the beginning of the sentence. A non-breaking space (Unicode U+00A0) should be used between the number and its units to insure that they stay together in the final document. The SI unit of time is s (second), h stands for hora, min for minuta, d for dies (day) and a for annum (year).

When necessary, non-SI units can be added between parenthesis to allow comparison with older literature or traditional systems of measurements. This includes usual units, such as surface of farming units (faddan, acres, ares, hectares), or traditional depth units (fathoms, brasses, Ba',...) or distance (nautical miles, miles) or other non SI units (gallons, inch, foot, bushels, etc.).

Illustrations

Illustrations should be numbered consecutively and submitted as individual files, not embedded in the article file. To insure compatibility, the journal accepts the following file format JPEG, TIFF, PNG, PDF, EPS and SVG. Although the journal is normally published in black and white, color illustrations can be used when color is clearly necessary to convey the intended message. Although the authors can suggest the inclusion of color figures in the paper, the final decision to include them or not is left to the editorial board. The editorial team will strive to provide the best possible graphic output from the material submitted by the authors and may in some cases decide to redraw some figures to improve readability. They may also request better quality photographs or color figures if necessary. Typically black and white line figures should have a resolution of at least 600 dpi (at the final printed size) and color figures or photographs 300 dpi (at the final printed size) but should not exceed 10 MB. For line graphics, vector based file formats (SVG, PDF, EPS) are preferred as they are resolution independent.

Illustrations should be numbered consecutively and submitted as individual files. Each illustration should have at the bottom of the page a brief identifier such as the name of the first author, the word *Figure* and the sequential number of the figure. (Al-Oufi, Figure 7 for instance). The full captions of all figures should be presented in numerical order on a separate page at the end of the text manuscript.

In the figure use Helvetica as the standard typeface for all text (axis, legend, axis legend, equations, labels, etc.) and insure that all text will remain legible even after size reduction for final printing. Figures will be printed either as a single column (7 cm wide) or double column (14 cm) figure

Macro-photographs, micro-photographs, SEM photographs, anatomical drawings, morphological illustrations, should have a appropriately labeled scale bar. Avoid multiplication factors (x100, x10000) as these will change with the rescaling of the figure when printed.

Tables

Tables should be presented in a clear manner and designed to fit on the width of a page. Exceptionally wide tables may be typeset, sideways, along the height of a printed page. All unnecessary decimals should be removed. Tables should be

included at the end of the manuscript on separate pages and the legend/caption of each table should be placed on the same page and above the table.

Equations

Equations should be placed on separate lines and numbered sequentially at the end of the line. They should be typeset using an equation editor. If this is not possible scan or photograph a clear handwritten version of the equation which will be typeset by the editorial team.

The Journal uses the modern scientific number styles recommended by the Council of Science Editors. This styles uses digit numbers (1, 2,4.5, 7, etc.) for all numeric representations, even single digit ones. The main exceptions are when a digit starts a sentence, or when the single digit number is part of an idiomatic expression such as in “one or both”, a “zero-tolerance policy”, a “one-to-one interview”, “one has to agree that”...

References

SQU Journal of Agricultural and Marine Sciences uses a variation of the Author-Date style of references developed by the Council of Science Editors (CSE). Output style files for Endnote and CSL (Citation Style Language) are available for download on the Journal Submission Management Web Page:
<http://journals.sfu.ca/squjams/index.php/squjams/index>.

In-text citation

Citation in the text should be either Name (date) or (Name date) depending on whether the authors of the cited paper have a grammatical function in the sentence or not. Note the absence of punctuation between the author and the date. When several references are grouped in a single inline citation, the different references are separated by a semi-colon (;).

Jones et al. (2007) listed 4 main types of ...
According to Jones et al. (2007), the main reason for....
The prevalence of coral parasites was considerably lower than that reported in Tanzanian coral reefs (Mwaniki 1996).

Different papers that share the same in-text citation format (same authors and same year of publication) are identified by a small letter (a, b, c) following the date of publication. When used in a single citation, the author's name is not repeated.

The ticks collected on camels were not different from that found on goats (Bobade 2004a) or sheep (Bobade 2004b).
There were no differences in the species of ticks collected on different farm animals (Bobade 2004a; 2004b)...

The family name of the first author is always used. For publications with 2 authors, the 2 family names with the conjunction “and” are used followed by the year of publication. For more than 2 authors, the abbreviation et al. (Latin *et alii* – and others) is used to replace all but the first author's name.

Jones et al. (2007) listed 4 main types of soft coral communities...
Al-Barwani and Jones (2005) found 3 genetically distinct populations of mussels...
The Omani clownfish has a distribution restricted to a few 100s of km along the Arabian
Sea coast of Oman (Simpson et al. 2014).

End of text references

The bibliographic information for all cited references in the articles are listed at the end of the papers under the heading “References”. The list of references is sorted first following the alphabetical order of the authors and if necessary, by the date of publication. Please follow the examples shown below, including punctuation. The Journal names follow a “Title case” capitalization—all words are capitalized except articles (a, an, the); preposition (against, of, in, to), conjunctions (and, for, not, or)—and should NOT be abbreviated. Titles of articles, books, on the other hand follow a sentence case capitalization (i.e. words are capitalized according to the grammar of the language of publication): the first word, the first word that follow a colon or a semi colon, names of geographic locations, or proper nouns, etc. For articles published in non-English languages, provide the original title if the language uses roman characters or a translation of the title for other languages (Arabic for instance) and add the name of language between 2 periods at the end of the reference.

For online references, follow the overall same standard as for print publication, but include a date of access and if possible a DOI number. Volume and issues, if available, follow directly the Title of the Journal with the issue number between parenthesis. Page numbers follow a colon and are separated by an hyphen. For books, the total page number is used with the abbreviation pp. whereas for sections of books, the abbreviation is “p.” followed by the range of pages of the section (p. 25-44). All references ends with a period.

Journal reference with 1 author

Adams NA. 2001. UV radiation evokes negative phototaxis and covering behavior in the sea urchin *Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*. Marine Ecology Progress Series 213: 87-95.

Journal reference with 2 authors

Zhou M, Huntley ME. 1997. Population dynamics theory of plankton based on biomass spectra. Marine Ecology Progress Series 159: 61-73.

Journal reference with more than 2 authors

Schlacher TA, Thompson I, Price S. 2007. Vehicles versus conservation of invertebrates on sandy beaches: Mortalities inflicted by off-road vehicles on ghost crabs. Marine Ecology 28: 354-367.

Whole book

Parsons TR, Maita Y, Lalli CM. 1984. A manual of chemical and biological methods for seawater analysis. New York: Pergamon Press. 173 pp.

Book chapter from an edited book

Brooks HA, Probert TH. 1984. Let's ask GMDH what effect the environment has on fisheries. In: Farlow SJ, editor. Self-organizing methods in modeling. Gmdh type algorithms. New York and Basel: Marcel Dekker, Inc. p.169-178.

Report

Stransky C. 2001. Preliminary results of a shape analysis of redfish otoliths: Comparison of areas and species. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. NAFO SCR No. 4382.

Thesis

Al-Masroori HS. 2002. Trap ghost fishing problem in the area between Muscat and Barka (Sultanate of Oman); an evaluation study [MSc.]. [Muscat]: Sultan Qaboos University. p. 112.

Article not in English

Samimi NS. 2004. Soft-corals and gorgonians of the Iranian shore of the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian Journal of Oceanography 7(2):45-49. Farsi.

Conference proceedings

Campbell AC. 1988. The echinoderm fauna of Dhofar (southern Oman) excluding holothuroids. In: Burke RD, Mladenov PV, Lambert P, editors. Proceedings of the Sixth International Echinoderm Conference; 23-28 August 1987; Victoria, Canada: Balkema. p. 369-378.

Submission checklist

1. The current submission has not been previously published not is it currently submitted to another journal for consideration.
2. The submission text files are in Microsoft Office (.doc, .docx), OpenOffice (.odt), RTF (rtf) or Apple Pages (.pages) document file format.
3. The text of the document uses a 12-point standard font with a 14-16 point leading (space between lines) on A4 or US-Letter format pages with page numbers and line numbers. Manuscript conforms to the journal recommended styles, length and number of sections.
4. The *Abstract* of the paper follows the structured format described in the guide for authors and includes a single paragraph (<300 words) with 5 inline headings (Introduction, Objectives, Method, Results and Conclusions) and keywords for the manuscript are provided.
5. Photography (or photographic plates) are submitted in the jpeg (.jpg) file format at 300 dots per inch (dpi) with 80% compression quality or better. Line drawings and other figures should be preferably submitted as vector graphics such as pdf, eps or svg files. Alternatively, high resolution (600dpi) image format are acceptable (PNG, TIFF, GIF).
6. All figure captions are and all tables (including title, description and footnotes) are part of the submission main text file.

7. The text adheres to the stylistic and bibliographic requirements outlined in this document which can also be found in **About the Journal** on the Journal web site.
8. The manuscript has been "spell-checked" and "grammar-checked".

Supplementary material

JAMS accepts electronic supplementary material to support your report. These may include high-resolution images, sound-tracks, datasets and will be published online along the electronic version of the published paper. Data should be provided in one of the supported format (pdf, doc, docx, otd, rtf, pages, jpeg, png, tiff, svg...) for printable documents and standard formats for non-printable documents.