



M6.17 - New open access data publishing journal

Leading partners: Pensoft, NHM

Compiled by:

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Introduction

Driven by changes to policies of governments and funding agencies, Open Access to content and data is becoming the prevailing model in academic publishing. There are two main modes of Open Access publishing – Green Open Access, where the authors have the right to provide free access to the article outside the publisher's web site in a repository (or on their own website), and Gold Open Access, where articles are available for free download directly from the publisher on the day of publication.

Opening of content and data, however does not necessarily mean "easy to discover and re-use". The [Biodiversity Data Journal](#) (BDJ) proposed the term "*Advanced Open Access*" to describe an integrated, narrative (text) and data publishing model where the main goal is to make content "re-usable" and "interoperable" for both humans and computers.

To publish effectively in open access, it is not sufficient to provide PDF or HTML files online. It is crucial to put these under a reuse-friendly license and to implement technologies that allow machine-readable content and data to be harvested and collated into a big data pool.

The *Advanced Open Access* means:

- Free to read
- Free to re-use, revise, remix, redistribute
- Easy to discover and harvest
- Content automatically summarised by aggregators
- Data and narrative integrated to the widest extent possible
- Human- and computer-readable formats
- Community-based, pre- and post-publication peer-review
- Community ownership of data
- Free or low cost publishing affordable by all

Open Access is, however, only one facet of scholarly communication. Core scientific statements or assertions are intertwined and hidden in the scholarly narratives, and the data underlying these statements are often obscured to the point that replication of results is impossible (Nature Editorial 2012). This is in part a result of the way scientific papers are written as narratives, rather than sources of data.

The launch of the Biodiversity Data Journal was officially announced in the autumn of 2012, during the XIV International Congress of Entomology in Daegu, South Korea, 19-25 August 2012 and at the TDWG 2012 Conference in Beijing, China, 26-30 Oct 2012. The core editorial team consisting of more than 120 renowned biodiversity specialists was completed by February 2012. The journal's policies, focus and scope, author guidelines and other information of this kind were published on the journal's website in March 2012 (see Appendix) and the journal started to accept manuscripts. The first 24 papers were published on 16th of September 2013, including the opening editorial paper (Smith et al. 2013, see also the press releases: [The Biodiversity Data Journal: Readable by humans and machines](#), [Advanced Open Access publishing model](#)) and [The cyber-centipede: From Linnaeus to big data](#).

BDJ shortens the distance between “data” and “narrative” publishing

Most journals nowadays clearly separate data from narrative (text). BDJ is not a conventional journal, nor is it a conventional “data journal”. It aims to integrate data and text in a single publication by converting several kinds of biodiversity data (e.g., species occurrences, checklists, or data tables) into the text for human-readable use, while simultaneously making data units from the same article harvestable and downloadable. The text itself is marked up and presented in a highly structured and machine readable form.

An abundance of small isolated datasets does not, however, allow us to address the fundamental problems within the biodiversity science community. These islands of data are only of value if connected and interlinked. The task of interlinking is performed by biodiversity data aggregators like the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility \(GBIF\)](#) and [Encyclopedia of Life \(EOL\)](#) which form the backbone of data-driven biodiversity research. By automating the submission of data to these aggregators, we can increase their value to more than the sum of their parts, making small data big. A renewed appreciation of the value of small data will help to reduce the vast amount of research data that exists only on laptops and memory sticks - data that is often lost when people change roles or retire.

BDJ aims to integrate small data into the text whenever possible. Supplementary data files that underpin graphs, hypotheses and results can also be uploaded on the journal’s website and published with the article.

Nonetheless, this policy is usually not possible for large or complex data, for which BDJ recommends deposition in an established open international repository (for details, see Penev et al. 2011):

- Large primary biodiversity data sets (e.g., institutional collections of species-occurrence records) should be published with the [GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit \(IPT\)](#); small data sets of this kind are imported into the article text through an Excel template, available in PWT.
- Genomic data should be deposited with [INSDC \(GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ\)](#), either directly or via a partnering repository, e.g. [Barcode of Life Data Systems \(BOLD\)](#). Transcriptomics data should be deposited in [Gene Expression Omnibus \(GEO\)](#) or [ArrayExpress](#).
- Phylogenetic data should be deposited at [TreeBASE](#), either directly or through the [Dryad Data Repository](#).
- Biodiversity-related geoscience and environmental data should be deposited in [PANGAEA](#).
- Morphological images other than those presented in the article should be deposited at [Morphbank](#). Images of a specific kind should be deposited in appropriate repositories if these exist (e.g., [Morphosource](#) for MicroCT data).
- Videos should be uploaded to video sharing sites like [YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#) or [SciVee](#) and linked back to the article text. Similarly, audio files should go to platforms like [FreeSound](#) or [SoundCloud](#), and presentations to [Slideshare](#). In addition, multimedia files can also be uploaded as supplementary files on the journal’s website. 3D and other interactive models can be embedded in the article’s HTML and PDF.
- Any other large data sets (e.g., ecological observations, environmental data, morphological and other data types) should be deposited in the [Dryad Data Repository](#), either prior to or upon acceptance of the manuscript. Other specialised data repositories can be used if these offer unique identifiers and long-term preservation.

All external data used in a BDJ paper must be cited in the reference list, and links to these data (as deposited in external repositories) must be included in a separate data resources section of the article.

All datasets, images or multimedia are freely downloadable from the text under the [Open Data Commons Attribution License](#) or a [Creative Commons CC-Zero waiver / Public Domain Dedication](#). The article text is available under a [Creative Commons \(CC-BY\) 3.0](#) license (see Appendix , for detail). Primary biodiversity data and taxon treatments within an article are exported in [Darwin Core Archive](#) format, which makes them interoperable with biodiversity tools based on the [Darwin Core](#) standard.

Authoring, peer-review and publication in one place, for the first time

The online, collaborative, article-authoring platform ([Pensoft Writing Tool, PWT](#)) is the principal way to write and submit a manuscript to BDJ. It provides a set of pre-defined, but flexible article templates (Fig. 1). Authors may work collaboratively on a manuscript and invite external contributors, such as mentors, potential reviewers, linguistic and copy editors. Colleagues may read and comment on the text before submission. Images are arranged into plates through a plate builder. This allows component images to be individually labeled, viewed, enlarged, linked to content, embedded, downloaded or otherwise used and reused.

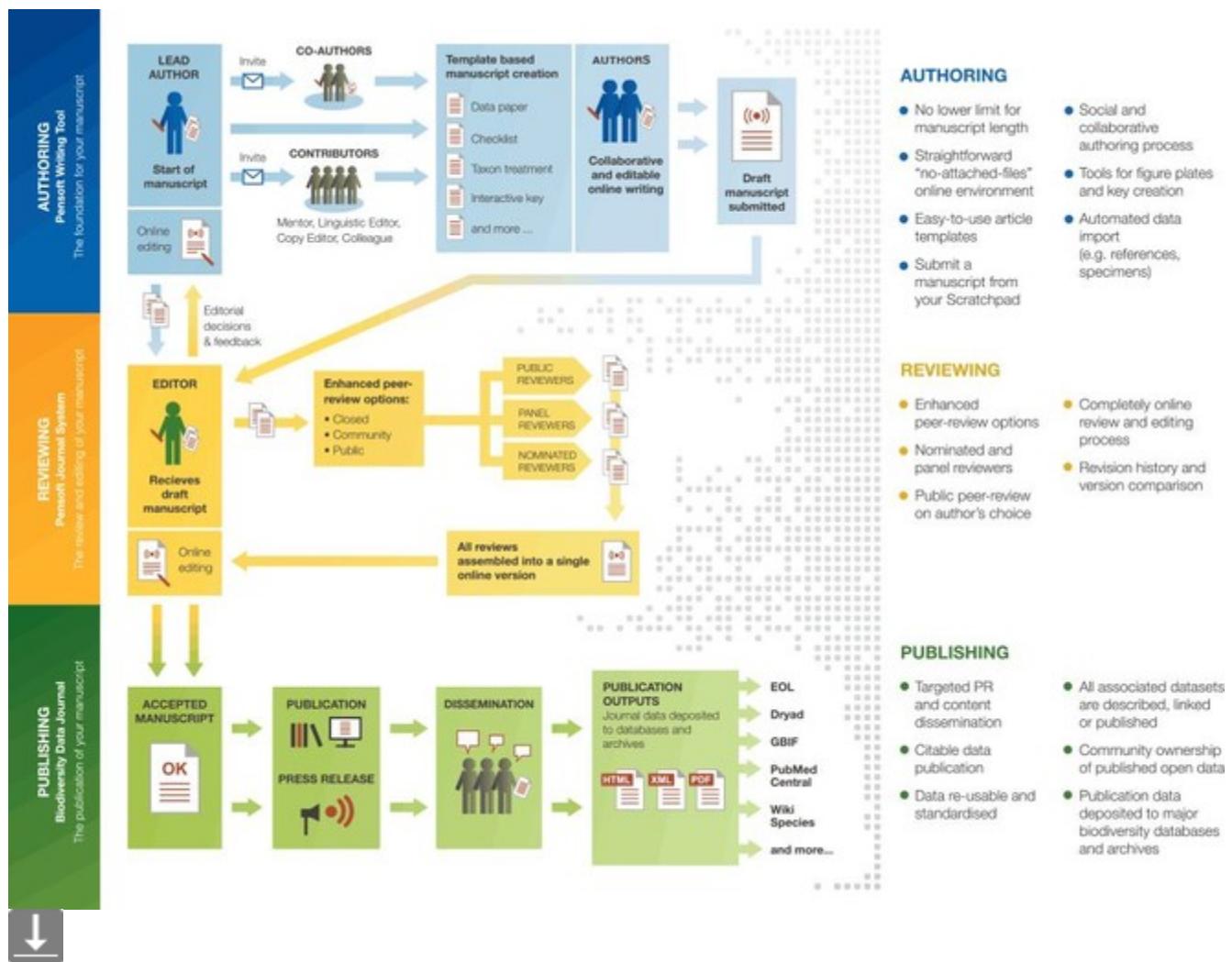


Figure 1. Three-step editorial workflow in the Biodiversity Data Journal: manuscript authoring, peer-review and publication.

A special feature of PWT is that the authors can see at any time an editable preview of their manuscript in a format that is very close to the final published version. On completion of the manuscript, it can be submitted to the journal with a simple click of a button that will initiate the review process. The tool also allows automated import of manuscripts from data management platforms such as [Scratchpads](#). Several tools in PWT facilitate import of data, references, images and other data.

A major advantage of the PWT is that it handles much of the semantic enhancement of a manuscript automatically during validation, eliminating the need for the authors or editors to manually markup portions of text. Examples of this include taxonomic names and georeferenced localities. The validation tool checks for compliance with the relevant biological code, for example checking that a holotype designation has been made for a new species description and that a new genus has a designated type species.

The technology used by the PWT largely eliminates the conventional layout stage, just as the validation tool saves work for the copyeditors. Our goal is to greatly reduce the publication

costs for all. This is particularly important because many authors working within biodiversity science are not backed by large institutions who can cover large page charges.

A novel *community-based* peer review of the manuscripts submitted to BDJ provides the opportunity for many specialists in the field to review a manuscript. The purpose of community peer review is to distribute effort, increase speed and transparency, engage the broader community of experts, and enhance the quality of the science we publish.

There are three groups of reviewers that may participate in the community peer review process: *nominated*, *panel*, and *public reviewers* (see Appendix). Nominated reviewers are expected to agree to provide a formal review by a deadline, and in this sense, they operate in the same way as conventional referees in most other journals. Panel reviewers are also invited to evaluate the manuscript, but without the formal acceptance of the deadline. They can submit their review, if they wish, at any time before the editorial process is finalised. Both nominated and panel reviewers can propose changes and corrections, make comments in the manuscript online and submit a concise reviewers' evaluation form. Reviewers may opt to be anonymous but we encourage them to disclose their names. In the near future, authors will be able to opt for an entirely public peer-review process. Finally, comments can be posted after publication through a special "Review it" button, so as to extend the review process even further and to enrich it with new insights, corrections or follow-up work.

The editor's work is reduced by a tool that collates reviewers' comments and corrections into a single document. Upon receipt of this consolidated review and editorial evaluation (Fig. 2), the authors may accept or reject the proposed corrections, reply to comments of the reviewers and edit their manuscript in the same single online document for one-click resubmission.

Show markup

Filter by reviewer

Comments

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Editorial decision **Close**

A contribution to the study of scarab beetle diversity in Russia: checklist of the tribe Aphodiini (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae)

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Abstract

Field sampling of the Aphodiini scarab beetles in Dosang environs (Astrakhan Province, European Russia) in 2006–2012 resulted in collecting of 44 species. All but one of them belong to *Aphodius* Hellwig (*sensu lato*). This is apparently the richest recorded local Aphodiini fauna in Russia. High Aphodiini diversity in the area can be explained by the long vegetative season with high effective heat sum, large livestock providing abundant food resources throughout the year, and location in the transition belt between Volga-Akhuba Floodplain and Desert floristic districts. Core fauna consists of mesophilous species widely distributed in Palearctic region and confined to intrazonal habitats. Other species have ranges mostly limited to the steppe, semidesert, and desert zones.

Keywords

Scarab beetles, dung-beetles, beetles, aphodines, Aphodiini, Caspian lowland desert, faunistic composition

Alberto Ballerio inserted this text.

Introduction

The tribe Aphodiini is the most diverse and widespread among the scarab beetles of the Northern Palearctic, including Russia. The members of this group dominate dung beetle communities and a few species can be found as far north as 65° degree of the northern latitude. However, like all other scarabs, Aphodiini are the most Aphodiinare *most* diverse in the southern regions of the country. In Russia, major centers of aphodine diversity are chiefly found in mountainous regions — Caucasus, Altai Mountains, Southern Primorye (Akhmetova 2011). Exception to these is the Caspian lowland desert with rich scarab beetle fauna (Nikolajev 1987; Shokhin 2007). Lower Volga, and especially Caspian lowland desert has long been recognized as a center of scarab beetle diversity in Russia. A number of first country records of aphodines originated from this area (Akhmetova and Frolov 2008b; Akhmetova and Frolov 2008a; Akhmetova and Frolov 2009). Yet its fauna is still inadequately explored.

Below the data of multi-year survey in Astrakhan Province are summarized and a checklist of the tribe Aphodiini of the Dosang environs is given. The list includes 44 species all but one of which belong to the mega-diverse genus *Aphodius* Hellwig (= *Aphodius*

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I was able to correct some of the grammatical errors, but was not able to delete "greyed-out" text, as in "scientific name" under the header of "Other material" for *Aphodius gregarius*. I saved the document twice, but when reviewing for a final time, some of the corrections (such as "dung-beetles" replacing "dung-beetles" under keywords), had reverted back to the original errors.

The authors should amend the distributional data for *Aphodius erraticus* to note that it is also introduced to North America, and that *Aphodius vittatus* is native to North America, so should perhaps be referred to as a Holarctic species.

Jan Krikken
17:31 on 19 Aug. 2013

This is a useful faunistic piece on Aphodiini samples from an apparently species-rich, limited area in Russia. Some suggestions:
Some linguistic improvement is required; the textual sections are short and this should not be a problem (note the non-use of the article the). All scientific names should be followed by (author and) year; most are but the *Aphodius* author Hellwig (*sensu lato*?), for instance, is unknown to outsiders (add also nomenclatural source of this authorship). For context/background, and as a source for general distribution and classification, some synoptic work should be indicated (Balthasar, Dellacasa, etc.). And is there a useful general entry to aphodine ecology, in addition to the Russian references? What are those trees in Fig. 4, and what is cheat grass?
There are some typos/misspellings in names (including species headings: hydrohaeus, satellitus; *Scarabaeus typhon*) — re-check the text. Is *vittatus* not occurring in the Nearctic Region? (By the way: alphabetic arrangement!)
Discussion: What about phenology (seasonal differences in the occurrence of the respective species)? I certainly would represent the biogeographic and ecological relationships more sensibly for a checklist.

Download

Figure 2. Consolidated review version. The editor sees all reviewer's corrections and comments in one place and can filter them. The editor can also insert his/her own corrections and comments before submitting the editorial evaluation.

Accepted articles are published in semantically enhanced HTML, PDF and XML versions, compliant with the [TaxPub](#) schema, an extension of the NLM/NCBI Journal Article Tag Suite (JATS) used by the [PubMedCentral](#) archive (Catapano 2010, Penev et al. 2011).

Delivering appropriate content to different users

In the Internet era, dissemination of published information is at least as important as the act of publishing. The highly structured text, domain-specific markup and underlying data can be used not only for effective reading but also to provide users direct access to the precise data they need (Penev et al. 2010). For example, an essential part of systematics publications are taxon treatments. In the BDJ these are automatically extracted from the text and submitted

for display and further re-use in the [Encyclopedia of Life](#), the [Plazi Treatment Repository](#) and the wiki-based repository [Species-ID](#).

Literature references are exported to the community-owned Bibliography of Life (based on the [RefBank](#) database and the [ReFindIt](#) bibliographic search tool) as well as to several other bibliographic databases. This allows for their further re-use and import into new publications, saving authors a great deal of time locating historical literature.

Images are exported to [Encyclopedia of Life](#), which increases their visibility and re-use.

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Appendix. BDJ policies, focus and scope

Focus and scope

The **Biodiversity Data Journal (BDJ)** is a community peer-reviewed, open-access, comprehensive online platform, designed to accelerate publishing, dissemination and sharing of biodiversity-related data of any kind. All structural elements of the articles – text, morphological descriptions, occurrences, data tables, etc. – will be treated and stored as DATA, in accordance with the [Data Publishing Policies and Guidelines of Pensoft Publishers](#).

The journal will publish papers in biodiversity science containing taxonomic, floristic/faunistic, morphological, genomic, phylogenetic, ecological or environmental data on any taxon of any geological age from any part of the world with **no lower or upper** limit to manuscript size. For example:

- single taxon treatments and nomenclatural acts (e.g., new taxa, new taxon names, new synonyms, changes in taxonomic status, re-descriptions, etc.);
- data papers describing biodiversity-related databases, including ecological and environmental data;
- any kind of sampling report, local observations or occasional inventories;
- local or regional checklists and inventories;
- habitat-based checklists and inventories;
- ecological and biological observations of species and communities;
- any kind of identification keys, from conventional dichotomous to multi-access interactive online keys;
- descriptions of biodiversity-related software tools.

Globally unique innovations

The **Biodiversity Data Journal (BDJ)** and associated **Pensoft Writing Tool (PWT)**, created several, globally unique, innovations:

1. The first work flow ever to support the full life cycle of a manuscript, from writing through submission, community peer-review, publication and dissemination within a single online collaborative platform.
2. The online, collaborative, article-authoring platform [Pensoft Writing Tool \(PWT\)](#) provides a large set of pre-defined, but flexible, Biological Codes and Darwin Core compliant, article templates.
3. Authors may work collaboratively on a manuscript and invite external contributors, such as mentors, potential reviewers, linguistic and copy editors, colleagues, who may watch and comment on the text before submission. These comments can be submitted along with the manuscript for editor's consideration.
4. Import/export conversion of data files into text and vice versa, from text to data, such as checklists, catalogues and occurrence data in [Darwin Core](#) format, simply at the click of a button.
5. Automated import of data-structured manuscripts generated in various platforms ([Scratchpads](#), [GBIF Integrated Publishing Toolkit \(IPT\)](#), authors' databases).

6. A novel ***community-based pre-publication*** peer-review and possibilities to comment after publication (***post-publication peer-review***). Authors may also opt for an entirely public peer-review process. Reviewers may opt to be anonymous or to disclose their names.

Criteria for publication

Key features

Text and data submitted to **Biodiversity Data Journal** will be formally peer-reviewed and evaluated for technical soundness and the correct presentation of appropriate and sufficient metadata. The scientific quality and importance of the paper and data will be judged by the scientific community, through a novel ***community-based pre-publication and post-publication peer-review***.

Authors may also opt for an entirely open and public peer-review process. Reviewers may opt to be anonymous or to disclose their names. The deadlines for the peer-review and editorial processes are strict and limited to a maximum of two months after submission.

The peer review process and deadlines described below are articulated on the assumption that the contribution is a short, concise and technically written manuscript that is not expected to require much time from the reviewer.

Criteria for publication

- **Originality:** Papers and associated data should be sufficiently novel and contribute to a better understanding of the topic under scrutiny.
 - Example 1: A local checklist **is** considered novel if it includes new data from a locality; a local checklist **is not** considered novel if it is mostly confirmatory and repetitive and lists common species from a locality in a well-studied region.
 - Example 2: Occurrence data **are** considered novel if they significantly extend the range (geographical, temporal or habitat type) of a taxon, present intriguing biogeographical discoveries, concern taxa of high natural or social importance (e.g., invasive species); or feature taxa that are data-poor; occurrence data will be **not** be considered novel, if they only list new localities of a well-known and common (data rich) taxon within a well-studied region.
 - Example 3: Ecological and biological observation on any species from any region of the world are considered novel always when they do not repeat already published information.
- **Data are published:** All data underpinning an article, including data tables on which graphs are produced, must be published alongside the paper, e.g. as supplementary files, or links to external repositories where data are deposited, and contain sufficient metadata to facilitate data discovery.
- **Structure:** Manuscripts should be concisely written, in a good academic style, and follow a logical sequence. Results should be clearly and concisely described and supported by the data published with the article, or data published elsewhere but linked to the article.

- **Previous research:** Previously published information should be considered and cited in compliance with the good academic practice. References should be complete and accurate, where possible including DOIs or links to the article.

Peer review

What is "community peer review" ?

It is evident that the peer review system is increasingly under strain. Our response to this situation is to decrease the load on each individual reviewer without in any way compromising the quality of the final product. The purpose of **community peer review** is to distribute effort, increase transparency, engage the broader community of experts, and enhance the quality of the science we publish.

Stepwise description of the peer review and editorial process

1. Upon submission, the manuscript is automatically assigned to the Subject Editor responsible for the topic. The Subject Editor is alerted by email.
2. The Subject Editor reads the manuscript and decides if it complies with the journal's scope and should be processed for peer-review.
3. The Subject Editor sends review requests to two or three "nominated" reviewers and several other "panel" reviewers.

Note-1: How editors invite reviewers? The journal's database will provide a list of potential reviewers and if necessary the editor can add additional names to the list. Review requests will be emailed by a 'single-click' option.

Note-2: "Nominated" and "Panel" reviewers. The difference between "Nominated" and "Panel" reviewers is that "Nominated" reviewers are expected to provide a formal review by the deadline; "Panel" reviewers are invited but not required to evaluate the manuscript. Both "Nominated" and "Panel" reviewers can propose changes and corrections, and make comments in the manuscript online and submit a concise reviewer's form.

Note-3: "Community" and "public" peer review. "Community" peer review means that during the peer-review process the manuscript is visible only to editor, the reviewers and the authors. The authors may opt, however, to make their manuscript available for comment by all registered journal users ("public" peer review). Reviewers may opt to stay anonymous or disclose their names in either case.

4. The Subject Editor receives a notification email if the nominated reviewer agrees or declines to review the manuscript. In the latter case the editor will appoint alternative nominated reviewers.

5. Reviews are required to be submitted within three weeks; the whole review process lasts five weeks from the date of the first invitation to reviewers. The Subject Editor will then decide to accept, reject, or request revision of the manuscripts.

Note-4: Provision of reviews. Reviewers will be prompted by automated email notification sent seven days before the deadline. In case of delay, the review request will be cancelled automatically; nonetheless, after cancelation, reviewers will be panel once more to share their opinion with the editor.

6. The authors must provide a revised version of their manuscript within one week, but can ask for an extension, if there is a demonstrable need.

7. After submission of the revised version, the Subject Editor compares it against the reviews through an easy-to-use online tool and decides to accept or reject the manuscript. The authors may be asked to make additional revisions, OR in case of substantial changes, the reviewing procedure will be started again. The editorial decision and correspondence with the authors (if needed) is expected to take maximum of two weeks.

8. The manuscript will be formatted, proof-read, copy-edited and published within two weeks after acceptance.

Guidelines for reviewers and editors

Peer reviewers and editors of the Biodiversity Data Journal are expected to evaluate the completeness and quality of the manuscript text, related dataset(s) and their description (metadata), as well as the publication value of data. This may include the appropriateness and validity of the methods used, compliance with applicable standards during collection, management and curation of data, and compliance with appropriate metadata standards in the description of the data resources.

The following aspects of evaluation will be considered:

- **Quality of the manuscript**
 - Is the paper sufficiently novel and contributes to a better understanding of the topic, or is the work rather confirmatory and repetitive?
 - Do the title, abstract and keywords accurately reflect the contents and data?
 - Is the manuscript internally consistent, suitably organised and written in grammatically correct English?
 - Are the relevant non-textual data and media (data sets, audio and video files) also available as supplementary files to the manuscript or as links to external repositories?
 - Have abbreviations and symbols been properly defined?
 - Does the manuscript put the data resource being described properly into the context of prior research, citing pertinent articles and datasets?
 - Are conflicts of interest, relevant permissions and other ethical issues addressed in an appropriate manner?
- **Quality of the data**
 - Are the data completely and consistently recorded within the dataset(s)?

- Does the data resource cover scientifically important and sufficiently large region(s), time period(s) and/or group(s) of taxa to be worthy of publication?
- Are the data consistent internally and described using applicable standards (e.g. in terms of file formats, file names, file size, units and metadata)?
- Are the methods used to process and analyses the raw data, thereby creating processed data or analytical results, sufficiently well documented that they could be repeated by third parties?
- Are the data plausible, given the protocols? Authors are encouraged to report any tests undertaken to address this point.
- Is the repository to which the data are submitted appropriate for the nature of the data?
- **Consistency between manuscript and data**
 - Does the manuscript provide an accurate description of the data?
 - Does the manuscript properly describe how to access the data?
 - Are the methods used to generate the data (including calibration, code and suitable controls) described in sufficient detail?
 - Is the dataset sufficiently novel to merit publication?
 - Have possible sources of error been appropriately addressed in the protocols and/ or the paper?
 - Is anything missing in the manuscript or the data resource itself that would prevent replication of the measurements, or reproduction of the figures or other representations of the data?
 - Are all claims made in the manuscript substantiated by the underlying data?

For authors

There are **NO** author guidelines in BDJ with regard to text formatting. The [Pensoft Writing Tool \(PWT\)](#) will guide you during the authoring and submission process. There are only two simple rules to follow, so please please read carefully the half page of text below before you start your manuscript!

The submission process in **BDJ** starts with writing a manuscript in the [Pensoft Writing Tool \(PWT\)](#) through fixed although flexible *article templates* to be selected on the [PWT](#) homepage (after clicking on the "Write new manuscript" button). The article templates cannot be changed once the writing process is started, theferore please consider the following:

1. How I can decide what article type to choose, if I want to publish:

- Free text paper (e.g., editorial, correspondence, opinion paper, etc.) -> Select *Editorial / Correspondence*.
- Taxonomic or nomenclatural acts (taxon treatments) -> Select *Taxonomic paper*, then open a treatment in the **Taxon treatments** section and define its type (either New taxon or Re-description). This article type should contain **at least** EITHER one taxon treatment, OR checklist OR identification key, otherwise it cannot be submitted.
- Systematic list of taxa with notes -> Select *Taxonomic paper*, then open a **Checklist**. This article type should contain **at least** EITHER one taxon treatment, OR checklist OR identification key, otherwise it cannot be submitted. The checklist itself is **not** a treatment.

- Species observations (new records, biology, ecology, conservation, etc.) -> Select **Taxonomic paper**, then open a treatment in the **Taxon treatments** section of the paper and define its type (Re-description or Species observation). This article type should contain **at least** EITHER one taxon treatment, OR checklist OR identification key, otherwise it cannot be submitted.
- Species inventory (by locality, region or habitat) -> Select **Species inventory**, then press on **Add locality, or region, or habitat** and list taxa recorded from that locality, region or habitat. You may then add another locality, or region, or habitat and list taxa recorded from there.
- Dichotomic identification keys -> Select **Taxonomic paper**, then open **Identification key(s)**. This article type should contain **at least** EITHER one taxon treatment, OR checklist OR identification key, otherwise it cannot be submitted. The identification key itself is not a treatment.
- Online interactive identification key-> Select **Interactive key**, then follow the format. This article type should contain a link to the described online key, which should be available in open access.
- Data paper (description of large data sets) -> Select **Data paper**, then follow the format. This article type should contain a link to the described data, which should be available in open access. Alternatively, data sets can be uploaded and published as supplementary files. See our [Data publication](#) guidelines.
- Software and online platforms -> Select **Software description**, then follow the format. This article type should contain a link to the described software or platform, which should be available in open access.

2. How I can cite references, figures and tables?

- Do not write in-text citations of references, figures or tables manually! The citations will be inserted automatically at the place of your cursor through the Cite a figure, Cite a table or Cite a reference commands. Once you select the place you want a citation, click on the desired reference, table or figure from the respective list.
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