

Online submissions

Nature strongly prefers submissions online for Articles Letters and Brief Communications. **Do not submit other types of contribution online unless specifically requested by a *Nature* editor**; for further details, see www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta/others.html. If in doubt, send an enquiry message to nature@nature.com first.

Please ensure that your manuscript and figures are ready to submit according to the formatting guide (www.nature.com/nature/authors/gta) before proceeding.

Important requirements

- **E-mailed submissions will not be considered.**
- If you submit a manuscript online, please do not also make a postal contribution.
- Please also ensure that your browser is set to accept cookies, as the system requires them for proper operation.
- Online submissions require the full names and email addresses of all the authors.

Content-related issues

- *Nature* does not require all authors of a paper to sign the letter of submission, nor does it impose an order on the list of authors. The submitting author is responsible for ensuring that all listed authors have agreed all the content.
- A copy of a permission letter or e-mail must be included for any work described in the paper as "personal communication" and for any licenced but unpublished work cited.
- *Nature* expects that as a rule, figures in research papers will be original figures generated by the authors. Where this is not the case, the corresponding author must inform editors at submission, and include written permission for use of such figures before or at time of acceptance.
- One copy of any relevant paper by any of the authors submitted or in press elsewhere should be attached, ideally as PDFs, clearly marked as such. Failure to do so may lead to rejection.
- *Nature* does not consider contributions under consideration or published elsewhere. This policy does not apply to conference abstracts or to prior postings on recognized community preprint servers. If **part** of a contribution has appeared or has been submitted elsewhere, the corresponding author must

specify in the covering letter which part of the contribution will appear or has appeared elsewhere, indicating the publication (or preprint server) concerned. Editors must be consulted if authors wish to publish/publicise any part of the submission elsewhere during the consideration process.

Manuscript formats

- Acceptable formats for the manuscript are MS Word (preferred), PostScript (PS, EPS or PRN), PDF, WordPerfect, Rich Text Format (RTF) and plain text (TXT). If using MS Word, we recommend you format your manuscript with the Nature MS Word template (www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/template).
- **The filename, including the extension, MUST NOT EXCEED 31 CHARACTERS, or your file will fail to transmit.**
- All figure legends and tables should be included in the manuscript.

Figure formats

Production-quality figures are not helpful at this stage. Follow these guidelines carefully to produce versions suitable for editorial assessment and peer review.

- We prefer that you convert all your figures to medium-resolution JPEG to reduce the upload time our submission site. If you cannot send JPEG we can accept GIF, PostScript (PS, EPS or PRN), PDF, TIFF and PowerPoint only. Please do not send other formats.
- Figures should be prepared at the size you would expect them to appear in *Nature*. (A single column is 86mm wide, double column is 172mm wide).
- We prefer figures to be 150 DPI. Colour, when used as an identifying tool, should be distinct.
- Please name your figure files with the convention: "Corresponding authorsurname_fig1.jpg".
- For figures with more than one part, label parts "a", "b" etc, and create a PDF scan of the whole figure to show preferred layout. On each composite include the corresponding author's name, *Nature* reference number when known, and the figure number.

Cover Letter

This should contain two (100-word or shorter) summaries: a concise paragraph to the editor indicating

scientific grounds why the paper should be considered for a topical, interdisciplinary journal rather than for a single-discipline or archival journal; and a separate summary of the appeal to a non-scientific audience.

The cover letter should state clearly what is included as the submission, including number of words of text, number of figures and individual parts (e.g. 4 figures, comprising 16 panels in total), supporting manuscripts and any Supplementary Information (specifying number of items and format). A rough estimate of the desired final size of figures in terms of number of pages is also needed; and full current postal and e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers. *Nature* communicates with authors by e-mail; authors must specify if they wish to exclude a method of communication.

Submitting your files

After logging on to the online submission system, you will be asked to fill in your details and submit all files relating to your manuscript.

These will then be converted into PDF format and you will be asked to approve the file conversion. **Please note that the submission process is not complete and *Nature* editors will not receive your files until you have approved the file conversion.**

When checking converted files, please reassure yourself that the conversion is of sufficient quality for editors and reviewers to reach an informed judgement. Please pay particular attention to any special characters and equations to ensure that these have converted properly.

Once you have approved the file conversion, your manuscript will be submitted to *Nature's* editors and you will receive an email acknowledgement. At any time afterwards you can use *Nature's* online submission system to check the status of your manuscript.

Security

All users have to enter a **password**, or have access to an **encrypted URL**, to access their part of the online submissions system. We have a secure **back-up procedure** to ensure the data and files on our database are regularly and securely backed up.

After submitting their review the **reviewer** no longer has access to the PDF through our system.

All manuscripts are scanned for **viruses** using industry standard virus scanning software as part of the submission process. The virus software is updated daily.

For full details of the security of online submissions see www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/subs/security.html.

Postal submissions

If online submission is not possible, contributions should be posted. In these cases, one copy is required, with a disk (cover letter, manuscript, supporting manuscripts, figures, all in separate files, clearly labelled and named and format identified). **We keep all submissions on file for future reference.** Submissions can be sent to our London or Washington DC offices (see www.nature.com/nature/about/contact). Authors of postal submissions need to provide an email address at the time of submission.

For **postal submissions only**, figures should be provided on disk, labelled with corresponding author's name, a list of the figure numbers/parts on the disk and formats used, and file types. One set of hard-copy figures is also needed, with a set of photocopies, one for each figure, with the panels (if any) arranged into a rectangular shape as they should appear on a printed page. These hard-copy figures should be of the highest possible quality, as *Nature* will scan them into electronic form to send to reviewers if unable to use digital files from authors' disks.

Please also read the content-related issues above.

Revised manuscripts

Please use this system **only** if a Nature editor has asked you to submit a revised version of your manuscript. **When resubmitting your paper, please use the 'Revised Manuscript' link on your author homepage** on the online submissions system.

Revised versions should be sent online, in accordance with the online submission requirements outlined above. They must include the manuscript reference number. If online submission is not possible, they should be sent by post (one hard copy plus two disks, one of the figures and one of all textual material, all labelled with the manuscript reference number).

All revised papers should be accompanied by one copy of the authors' response to the referees' and editors' comments, and by length estimates of revised manuscripts and figures.

Final manuscripts

If a manuscript is accepted in principle for publication, it will be required by mail as part of a package, specified by the editor in a letter to the author, and must not be submitted online or by email. For full instructions see www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final.