

## *Caribbean Naturalist* – Formatting Guidelines

**Qualitative requirements.** Care should be taken in manuscript preparation. Substance, quality, and clarity of presentation are very important and will receive critical review. \*\*\*If, after reading the following, you have any doubts about the proper formatting of particular aspects of a manuscript, please refer to the sample manuscript available on the journal website at [www.eaglehill.us/programs/journals/cana/sample-submission](http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/journals/cana/sample-submission).\*\*\*

### Manuscript Structure

- **Original research articles** should be written for an interdisciplinary readership. Discipline-specific terminology should be briefly defined or referenced. All research articles should generally have the following sections, in order: Abstract, Introduction, Field-Site Description, Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgments, and Literature Cited. The **Abstract** should give a tight synopsis of the article and should succinctly state the objectives and scope of the research, the methods used, results, and principal conclusions. The **Introduction**, with appropriate clarity and brevity, should identify the problem or question being investigated, include historic perspectives, state the specific hypothesis being examined, and summarize the overall research design. The **Field-site Description** section is required for field-based research and should include geographic boundaries, a general habitat description, and additional information as necessary. The **Methods** section should describe the design of the research and provide a sufficient level of detail so that results could be reproduced; the methodology for all data presented should be adequately described in this section, with any specialized methods concisely explained for a wide range of science-oriented readers. The **Results** section should present data in a clear and simple format, without redundancy. The Methods and Results sections should be tightly linked. The **Discussion** section should not be a restatement of results, but should appropriately revisit the research objectives and summarize and evaluate evidence for each conclusion and how well the study answered the research question(s). In addition, discuss unsettled points, compare results to previously published relevant work, identify practical applications of the research, and raise questions that remain and are worthy of further exploration. The Discussion section should not be a prolonged general review of the literature. The **Acknowledgments** section should note significant help received and financial assistance. The **Literature Cited** section needs qualitative constraint and should only include literature of significance. Detailed figures, tables, and discussions of statistics should be included to the extent useful for effective communication of results and interpretation of their significance.

- **Research summaries and general interest articles, including review papers, discussions of important current issues in natural history science, and history of science articles**, should be condensed, yet generally readable summaries and discussions of a broad base of previously published research papers, data, and/or technical reports. These type of manuscripts can have a variety of formats, but minimally need an Abstract and Introduction and Literature Cited sections. Photographs, figures, and tables can be included.

- **Notes or short communications** on unusual but limited field observations which are of broad interest to field biologists are considered. Authors should augment these observations where appropriate with regional summaries or additional biological information to put them in context. Notes should include a concise discussion of the scientific significance of the observations, references to vouchered collections (if appropriate), and references to the technical literature. Notes should minimally have an Abstract and Acknowledgments and Literature Cited sections. Notes should include only one level of headings within the main text section, and those headings should be formatted as described for 3rd-level headings in the “Format basics” section below.

[If the option of publishing a **photo essay** about Caribbean natural history appeals to you, such manuscripts may be submitted for publication to the journal, *Natural History Now*, which is also published by the Institute, and which mirrors these essays within the *Caribbean Naturalist*, in a section called *Natural History Now*. For formatting and submission guidelines, see [www.eaglehill/nnow](http://www.eaglehill/nnow). Photo essays should provide an academically rigorous overview of a selection of photos with detailed captions. They are opportunities for field biologists to provide significant peer-reviewed interim updates from ongoing natural history studies prior to the publication of a final report or research papers, in an authoritative "public service" format that is of interest to all who are curious to learn more about natural history. There are no page charges for *Natural History Now* publications. Photo essays pair well with and thus anticipate the publication of traditional research articles.]

**Writing style:** Our goal is to have the information presented in the journal in a manner that is as clear, engaging, and concise as possible. Towards that end, we now ask that authors use sentences written in active tense, except in instances where its use would make a sentence more wordy, awkward, or unnecessarily complex. We also encourage authors to abandon the old taboo about avoiding the use of the first person in scientific writing, as we agree with the growing sentiment that its use is not at all at odds with the goal of scientific research to be as objective as possible and generally makes it crystal clear which actions and interpretations are attributable to the author(s), which is not always obvious, especially when a paper includes discussion of other related research in the field or builds upon/incorporates the work of others or previous preliminary studies.

**Format basics.** Manuscripts should be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font (if other fonts are needed for special symbols, please include a note as to which fonts were used so we can be sure to correctly match them), with left-justified text in one column on 8.5" by 11" pages, with 1" margins on all sides. All manuscript pages should be numbered. At the top of the first page, the manuscript should list the article title and author name(s), affiliation(s), address(es), phone number(s), and e-mail address(es) and should clearly specify the corresponding author. The first line of each paragraph should be indented by using an inserted 0.25" tab, rather than by using a “split boundary margin” in the ruler (see the checklist below for further information on this point).

Major headings, i.e., Introduction, Methods, etc., should be centered, use title case (i.e., first letter of each major word capitalized) and in bold, with a blank line above. Subheadings, or 2nd-level headings, should be in bold on their own left-justified lines, in

sentence case (only first letter of the first word capitalized) and with a blank line above. Sub-subheadings, or 3rd-level headings, should be in italic at the beginning of indented paragraphs, in sentence case, followed immediately by a period, and without a blank line above. Note the following example of the formatting for a major heading, subheading and 3<sup>rd</sup>-level heading:

## Results

### Fish abundance data

*Deepwater trawl surveys.* The deepwater trawl collections made from 1998–2011 resulted in the capture of 9 species of ...

For research articles, Footnotes should only be used in tables. For general interest articles and articles on the history of science, footnotes may also be cited in the manuscript text, and should be placed in a separate section toward the end of the manuscript (i.e., formatted as endnotes rather than page-by-page footnotes).

Scientific names, authorities for the names (a good source is <http://www.itis.gov>), and common names for each species should be given at least once (either the first time mentioned in the text, or, if applicable, preferably in a table or appendix that lists the species discussed) in the format: *Eretmochelys imbricata* L. (Hawksbill Sea Turtle). Once a scientific name has been mentioned, the simplest, most widely recognized accurate name appropriate for the context of the article—usually the common name—should be used throughout the remainder of the manuscript. Abbreviations (... *E. imbricata* ...) are preferred in subsequent mentions of a species' scientific name, except when the name begins a sentence, or when the use is ambiguous. Please note that the journal policy is to capitalize the first letters of the common names of all species.

For within text references to cited literature that include multiple sources, the citations are given in alphabetical order, not chronological order. For sources with more than 2 authors, "et al." is used in the reference. For sources by the same author(s) published in the same year, add a letter to the year (e.g., 1988a, 1988b) to distinguish between them. For multiple sources by the same author(s), the name(s) are listed only once with the years separated by commas, unless there are multiple sources by the same author(s); in that case, semi-colons are used to separate the lists that include comma-separated elements. Note the following examples:

(Jones and Frank 1925, Smith et al. 2012, Thorgood 1993)

(Jones and Frank 1925; Smith et al. 2009, 2012; Thorgood 1993)

(Jones and Frank 1925; Smith et al. 2012; Thorgood 1993a, b)

**Figure basics.** All figures (graphs, maps, photos, etc.) need to be referenced within the manuscript, and numbered in the order in which they are first referenced (i.e., Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.) The *Caribbean Naturalist* will have a page size of 6.875 by 10 inches, with a maximum printable area in most instances of 5.28 by 8.125 inches. For submission, figures should be placed at the end of the manuscript (not embedded in the manuscript). Figures should be submitted in the same size they are to appear in the journal. Widths can be up to 5.28" in portrait mode; if in landscape mode, the width should be 8.125". Several images may be mounted together as a composite figure. Make sure all aspects of all figures are crisp and clear, with no fuzziness, pixilation, or jagged lines. Avoid the use of bold formatting and heavy lines. Figure text should be in Helvetica or comparable sans serif font. Make sure all text is of sufficient size to be legible, but no larger than 10 pt size. Figure captions should be provided for all figures. Cover photos should be in color and sized to 5" wide by either 4.5" or 6" tall (each manuscript is published separately with its own cover).

**Table basics.** Tables should be placed toward the end of the document, after the Literature Cited and before the Figures, if there are any. Tables should be created and formatted as Microsoft Word tables (choose "insert" in the "Table" menu) or as simple rows of single-tab delimited text (never with a series of spaces). Table widths may be 5.28" in portrait mode, or 8.125" in landscape mode, with table text at 9 pt. Times New Roman. Tables created in Excel should be simply copied and pasted into the Word file, rather than placed by choosing "insert ... object."

**Supplementary video, database, and audio files.** Authors have the option to have supplementary online file links referenced in their articles (i.e., data and information that enhances but is not essential for understanding of the article's research question, methodology, results, analysis, and conclusions, and especially whose size or format would make inclusion in the article difficult). These files are subject to the peer-review process and the decision to include supplementary files is made by the author in collaboration with the Manuscript Editor and the Publisher. Supplementary files will be posted on the journal's website at the same time that the PDF of an article is posted. If possible, all supplementary files should be smaller than 10 MB in size because of the difficulties that some users will experience in loading or downloading files of a larger size. Supplementary files can be of a wide variety of formats and can be compressed, but should fall into one of the following categories: Dataset, Figure, Table, Text, Protocol, Audio, or Video. Finalized supplementary files should be publication-ready, since these files are not copyedited. The within-article text reference to a hotlinked supplementary file is as follows: "(see Supplemental File X, available online at <http://www.eaglehill.us/CANAonline/suppl-files/cXXX-Xxxxxx-sX>." [We will replace the Xs with the appropriate information]. The inclusion of supplementary files is considered optional and requires a subvention of \$25 per file to help cover databasing costs.

**Literature Cited.** Citations are listed in alphabetical order. Literature citations should have only a single line return at the end of each citation and no use of tabs or series of spaces. The following examples should be carefully reviewed. Please note the sequence of information, use of italics, capital vs. lower case letters, initials, the use of spaces, parentheses, abbreviations, use of en-dashes and regular dashes, inclusion of total number of pages for books, use of capital letters for book titles, use of lower case letters for journal article titles, use of full journal names rather than abbreviations, etc. In particular, only the first authors's surname precedes his/her

initials—for all other authors and for the list of editors of the parent publication, the initials are given before the surname; no spaces between an author's initials; no spaces between volume number, colon, and page numbers. For book titles, capitalize all major words; for all other source titles (reports, articles, theses, etc.) only capitalize the first letter of the first word. Note the following examples for different types of citations:

Chapter or section of a book or a proceedings volume:

Morales, K.A. 1997. Foraging ecology and nutrition of sea turtles. Pp. 199–231, *In* P.L. Lutz and J.A. Moya (Eds.). *The Biology of Sea Turtles*. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.

Journal articles:

Brodie, E.D., Jr., and F.R. Prendas III. 1980. The amphibians of Ranomafana rain forest, Madagascar: Preliminary community analysis and conservation considerations. *Oryx* 26:207–214.

Christenson, H.R., T.W. Stripe, and M. Rico. *In press*. Morphological patterns of a Dominican anole. *Ecology*.

Report:

Allison, J.R. 1991. Materials packet relating to the vascular flora of limestone outcrops of Chickamauga Battlefield (Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park). Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Freshwater Wetlands and Heritage Inventory, Social Circle, GA, USA. 15 pp.

Thesis or Dissertation:

Rivers, T.J. 2007. Bioluminescent activity in the mating and antipredatory behavior of a marine ostracod (Crustacea, Myodocopida) in the Caribbean. Ph.D. Dissertation. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA.

Online source:

Unisys. 2009. Atlantic tropical storm tracking by year. Available online at <http://www.weather.unisys.com/hurricane/atlantic/index.html>. Accessed 14 March 2009.

**Use and acknowledgment of unpublished data.** Authors should have written permission (from original source) for any use of unpublished data that is not their own. Credit for use of unpublished data should be made as a parenthetical within-text reference to the authors of the data, including their affiliation, and location. For example, "(J. Perez, University of Puerto Rico, Akron, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, USA, unpubl. data) or (L. Hamm, US Geological Survey, Westfield, CT, and T. Plorank, US Forest Service, Northfield, MA, 2005 unpubl. data).

**Additional guidelines.** Additional manuscript guidelines are listed in the accompanying checklist of editorial considerations. These are intended for reference purposes.

## CARIBBEAN NATURALIST – ROUTINE CHECKLIST OF EDITORIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a routine checklist to be used to review whether your manuscript has met basic journal formatting guidelines. Manuscripts that significantly depart from these guidelines will be returned for revision prior to being considered for review. For visual examples of these guidelines, see the sample article available on the journal's website ([www.eaglehill.us/cana](http://www.eaglehill.us/cana)).

### Title, author names, affiliations and contact info, and abstract

The title should generally be no more than 20 words long, if possible.

Capitalize first letter of words in title, other than words like “and, by, for, from,” etc.

Spell out at least full first names of all author(s).

Each author's name should be flagged with a superscripted number that corresponds to their affiliation and contact information, and add an asterisk for the corresponding author.

Include a brief abstract for your article, generally with no more than 120 words.

### Species names

The first time a species is mentioned after the Abstract, the scientific name with authority name(s) should be given, followed by the common name in parentheses (alternately, and preferably if there is one, the authorities can be provided in a table or appendix that lists the species discussed) ... e.g., *Eusmilia fastigiata* (Pallas) (Smooth Flower Coral) or *Xiphias gladius* L. (Swordfish)

Once a scientific name has been mentioned, thereafter, the simplest, most widely recognized name appropriate for the context should be used (usually the common name).

Capitalize the first letters of the common names of all species.

Italicize rather than underline scientific names. Do not italicize sp. or spp.

Pay attention to whether the naming authority should be in parentheses, which denote that the species has been reclassified taxonomically since the original description. Unless needed due to the taxonomic focus of the manuscript, omit the year from the authority.

### Main body of article

Paragraphs should be indented by first inserting a 0.25" tab in the document ruler and then hitting the tab key at the start of each paragraph. If you don't first set the tab in the ruler, Word will instead automatically use a “split boundary margin” format is lost when pasting into the layout program we use. If you need to convert a document that already is formatted with the split boundary margin indents, first select all, then set the tab in the ruler, and then manually delete the split margins and insert tabs at the beginning of each paragraph.

Do not use ampersands (&).

Do not italicize ... i.e., e.g., or et al.

Follow the quotation mark convention of only including punctuation within quotation marks if part of a longer quote ... thus ... “xxx”, “xxx”, and “xxx”.

Use minute and second marks for geographic coordinates, e.g., 42°51'36"N, 112°25'45"W

Use double quotes (“xxx”) instead of single quotes (‘xxx’), except when a quote is nested within another quote.

Follow comma conventions of including commas before the word “and” in a list ... thus ... a, b, and c

Place commas after ... e.g., ... i.e.,

Preferentially use parentheses instead of brackets, except when nested... (xxx) instead of [xxx] ... (xxx [mmm] zzz).

For major headings, i.e., Introduction, etc., capitalize first letter of each word, other than words like “and, by, for, from,” etc.; insert a blank line above.

Subheadings, or 2nd level headings: on separate line; capitalize first letter of first word and proper names; insert blank line above.

Sub-subheadings, or 3rd level headings: indented and placed at start of paragraph, capitalize first letter of first word and proper names; italicize; follow immediately with a period; no blank line above.

Use Fig. instead of Figure, if used within parentheses ... thus “... the trend shown in Figure 2 is ...”, but “... an upward trend (Fig. 2).”

Numbers should generally not be written out, except at the beginning of a sentence or to avoid ambiguity.

Set off mathematical operators by single spaces when used with numbers or variable symbols; e.g., 37.8 ± 3.46 mm,  $P > 0.05$ .

When these symbols are used as modifiers rather than operators, do not set off with a space—e.g., the +2.3 difference, length of >5 cm

Do not underline mathematical operators (e.g., use  $\pm$   $\leq$   $\geq$  rather than an underlined + < >).

Use only subscripted and superscripted formatting provided by Word (not by changing position of characters in font menu).

Cite informal observations by colleagues as ... (name, affiliation, location, pers. comm.) or (name, affiliation, location, unpubl. data).

Use metric units (with English units in parentheses when necessary). Abbreviate units (e.g., m, g, km).

All double spaces in the manuscript should be removed.

When signifying a range of numbers, dates, etc., use en-dashes (option key + dash key) rather than regular dashes.

All dates should be given in the DD Month YYYY format ... e.g., 24 August 1988.

### Citations within main body of text

Citations within text should be listed alphabetically rather than chronologically.

Use of citation separators as follows: (xxx 1988, yyy 1989, zzz 1966) .... (xxx 1988, 1989; yyy 1989; zzz 1966).

Do not use commas between authors and year published ... (xxx 1999) ... not (xxx, 1999).

### Acknowledgments

Authors are encouraged to include an appropriate Acknowledgments (note spelling) section, thanking all those who significantly helped with or supported the research.

### Literature Cited section

Format citations as hanging paragraphs; only one paragraph return per citation (at the end) and no tabs or multiple spaces.

Names of authors should not be fully capitalized, e.g., ... R.G. Smith ... not ... R.G. SMITH

Substitute initials for author full first and middle names, with a period after each initial and NO space between initials, e.g., R.B. Smith

Note sequencing of author names and initials and comma before the "and": Smith, Sr., A., B.B. Brown, Jr., and C.C. Gold III.

2000. Note that with the exception of the first author, the initials are placed before the surname.

If author names are identical for multiple citation listings, repeat names of authors rather than using an underscore.

Remove spaces in journal volumes, issues, and pages: e.g., Smith, A. 1981. Article title. *Copeia* 54(1):83-87.

In titles of books, capitalize the first letter of each word, other than words like "and, by, for, from," etc.

For titles of articles, reports, dissertations, and theses, only capitalize the first letter of the first word and proper names.

For titles that have a colon, always capitalize the first letter of the first word after colon.

Use full journal names rather than abbreviations.

For publishers of books, reports, etc., list city, state or province (postal abbreviations), and foreign country.

For theses and dissertations, list the academic institution, city, state or province (postal abbreviations), and foreign country.

### Tables

Format tables as "inserted" Word Tables. If using Excel-created tables, simply cut and paste into Word. Do not insert tables as objects in Word.

Alternatively, format tables as simple rows of single-tab delimited text (never using spaces or multiple tabs).

Do not insert vertical lines in tables

Tables should be formatted to fit within 5.28" or 8.125" width, with a font of 9 pt. Times New Roman.

For column headings and table "cells," capitalize the first letter of the first word and proper names.

### Figures

Scale figures to fit the printed page (up to 5.28", or 8.125"). Try experimental photocopy reductions to be sure.

Make sure size of text in scaled figures is no larger than 10 pt. Use only sans serif font such as Helvetica for labeling.

Bold formatting of text should be avoided. Lines heavier than hairlines should be avoided.

Figures should have no background color.

Avoid filling in broad figure elements with solid black. Use distinct shades of gray or different line patterns instead.

Avoid using gridlines in graphs.

For each character string (axis labels, legends, etc.), capitalize only the first letter of the first word and proper names.

Italicize scientific names and statistical symbols (e.g., *P*,  $r^2$ , etc.).

Provide each figure as a separate high quality high-resolution (600 dpi for grayscale, 350 dpi for color) jpg, tif, pdf file.

Make sure all figures are crisp and clear with ample contrast (no fuzziness or jagged lines).