Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin
Instructions to Authors

Last updated: January 1st, 2024

Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin is published by the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan on behalf of its >15,000 members. Recent redevelopment initiatives are working consistently towards the journal's primary aim of advancing the pharmaceutical sciences worldwide. *Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin* publishes original, innovative articles from international authors for a large global audience, who openly access the journal online at the J-STAGE platform.

Guide to Contents

Aims & Scope

Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin is an international, open access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes significant and novel contributions on biological aspects of the pharmaceutical and health sciences. Articles can take basic, experimental, applied or clinical approaches; the journal especially welcomes articles that present work at the interface of these areas. Article types include Regular Articles, Communications, Notes, and Reviews.

The journal covers a broad range of topics spanning the environmental, biological, molecular and microbiological aspects of the pharmaceutical sciences. Articles on applied clinical pharmaceutics and the biological aspects of the chemistry of pharmaceutical science are also welcomed.

The journal is supported by the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan, which aims to advance the pharmaceutical sciences worldwide. *Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin* therefore provides its global authors with rapid but full peer-review services to select original, innovative, important work that is of the highest interest. A global audience of researchers, clinicians and pharmacists frequently access the journal's articles, which are available openly and freely online as soon as they are published.

How To Submit

Authors from around the world are welcome to contribute to the journal. All manuscripts must be submitted *via* the journal's submission site at https://www.editorialmanager.com/cpb-bpb/.

Original and revised manuscript texts may be uploaded as a Word, Excel, PowerPoint or PDF file, but a Word file is preferable and required for the final manuscript text. Figures can be incorporated in the Word file, or can also be submitted separately in several other standard formats, except the ChemDraw format. These files are automatically incorporated into a single PDF that the system creates for review.

If you encounter any problems with your submission, please contact the Editorial Office at ronb(at)pharm.or.jp.

Article Type Specifications

The Journal publishes Regular and Invited Reviews, Regular Articles, Communications, and Notes.

Regular Reviews are critical overviews of scientific discoveries in areas of the authors' expertise. These reviews are expected to include the authors' own recent interesting and significant results.

Invited Reviews are overviews of important topics that encompass recent scientific discoveries of high interest and significance. They are invited by the Editorial Board.

Regular Articles present original research performed by the authors and must include new data, analyses or information that is of significance and interest to a broad audience.

Communications are shorter articles that demand rapid publication due to the novelty, importance and immediate interest to the journal's readership. Authors must justify the need for urgent publication in a statement in their cover letter. In general, the main text of a **Communication** should not exceed 2000 words (approximately 4 journal pages).

Notes describe new facts and important data derived from work that is incomplete or only able to be partially completed. In general, the main text of a **Note** should not exceed 2000 words (approximately 4 journal pages).

Manuscript Preparation

Cover Letter

A cover letter must be included and should provide a brief overview of the work, its significance and the justification for publishing it. Authors who suggest potential referees should declare any relevant former or ongoing relationships in their cover letter. When submitting a Communication or Note, authors should provide the word count of the main text (including references) in their cover letter.

Style and Format

Please use 12-point Times New Roman font, preferably in Word. All files should have a page setup for A4 (210 mm wide × 297 mm high) paper when printed. Tables can be presented horizontally if necessary.

Title Page

The first page must be a Title page and should include the journal name (*Biol. Pharm. Bull*.) and manuscript type. This should be followed by the manuscript title, name(s) of the author(s), affiliation(s), and mailing address(es). The full address together with the telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the corresponding author should be given in a footnote. An asterisk (*) should be added to the right of the corresponding author's name. Use a dagger (†) to the right of a name if the present affiliation of an author is different to their affiliation when the work was completed. Include the author's current affiliation and address in the footnote.

Authors and Affiliations

The full names of authors and their affiliations must be provided. If authors have more than one affiliation, this should be indicated by italicized superscripts *a*, *b*, *c*… placed after the author's name, as shown below.

Hanako Yakugaku,[a,b] John Smith,[c] and Taro Soyaku[b]

Affiliations and addresses should then be provided as shown:

[a]*Department of Molecular Biology, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hokkaido University, Kita 12, Nishi 6, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060–0812, Japan:*
[b]*Department of Pharmaceutical Services, Hiroshima University Hospital, 1–2–3 Kasumi, Minami-ku, Hiroshima 734–8551, Japan: and*
[c]*Biomedical Research Institute, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Central 6, 1–1–1 Higashi, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 350–8566, Japan.*

Summary and Keywords

On the second page, provide a Summary (<250 words) and 3 to 6 descriptive keywords in decreasing order of importance. As the keywords are used in combination to construct a rich and comprehensive index, they should be conceptually unrelated and should not repeat words or phrases. For example, using the keywords 'protein,' 'protein synthesis' and 'synthesis' together is not suitable. Abbreviations should not be used as keywords.

Graphical Abstracts

Graphical abstracts are presented in the Table of Contents and other materials to give readers an at-a-glance grasp of the manuscript. Graphical abstracts consist of clear images, charts, graphs, chemical structures, or other informative illustrations that show the most striking feature of the article in visual form. Upon first submission, a full-color figure in the actual size to be used for the graphical abstract, no larger than 100 mm wide × 40 mm high with a resolution of 300 dpi (1181 × 472 pixels), should be provided.

Do not include proprietary logos, images, or product names in the figure.

Main Text

The main body of the article should initially provide the Introduction, and then sections detailing the Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion, in that order. Following these sections should be (in this order) Acknowledgments, Conflict of Interest, Supplementary Materials (if relevant), References, and Figure Legends.

Tables and Figures

Tables should be presented after the main text, numbered with consecutive Arabic numerals, and headed by brief titles. We recommend using the 'Tables' feature in Word; do not paste tables as pictures. Any footnotes must be placed directly after the table.

Figures should be presented after the Tables section and numbered with consecutive Arabic numerals followed by a brief title. The figure number and title should be placed below the figure. In the main text or elsewhere, figures should be cited as "Fig. XX" within a sentence or "Figure XX" at the start of a sentence.

Supplementary Materials

Authors can provide Supplementary Materials if they enhance the overall usefulness of the article and are relevant to more fully understanding or utilizing the article. Any Supplementary Materials should be submitted as separate document(s). In addition, text should be added between the Conflict of Interest and References sections that states: "This article contains Supplementary Materials."

Additional Information for Review

Other data necessary for peer review, including related manuscripts submitted elsewhere, should be submitted as additional information in separate documents, but labeled "Additional Information". These materials will not be published in the journal.

References

The journal's definition of a reference is any article or chapter published in journals, books, and other outlets such as technical reports, patents, and lectures. References to any other materials or personal communications should be described in the text.

The journal uses a modified Vancouver referencing style. As such, references should be numbered consecutively according to the order of citation in the main text (one Arabic number should be assigned to each reference). An Arabic number followed by a right-hand half-parenthesis should be placed after the last relevant word in the sentence, outside any punctuation mark.

For example: "LAMP proteins are reported to be involved in lysosome-phagosome fusion.[1)]"

A maximum of two names should be listed when referring to authors in the main text, for example "Jones and Smith." When referring to three or more authors, provide only the last name of the first author followed by *et al*. For example: "Jones *et al*."

The References section collates the references cited in numerical order. Journal abbreviations should conform to those listed in PubMed. For all listed authors, the last name and all initials should be used as exemplified below.

1) Vasievich EA, Chen W, Huang L. Enantiospecific adjuvant activity of cationic lipid DOTAP in cancer vaccine. *Cancer Immunol. Immunother*., **60**, 629–638 (2011).
2) Shimizu K, Oku N. Brain tumor diagnosis using PET with angiogenic vessel-targeting liposomes. *Tumors of the central nervous system*. (Hayat MA ed.) Vol. 3, Springer, New York, pp. 169–176 (2011).
3) Brunner A, Greune H, U.S. Patent 1910462 (1993) [*Chem. Abstr.*, **27**, 4092–4096 (1993)].
4) International Organization for Standardization. "How ISO develops standards.": ‹https://www.iso.org/developing-standards.html›, accessed 25 August, 2018.

Scientific Policies

Studies on Natural Products

Submissions that report on natural products (NPs) and/or crude extract materials (CEMs) from natural products must separately include a complete description and information on the sources of the NP/CEM, the extraction methods for the CEM, and elucidation standard in pharmacological studies of the NP/CEM. The full requirements can be found in "Guidelines for NP/CEM" at https://bpb.pharm.or.jp/.

All manuscripts must conform to the journal's guidelines and standards. This holds for any submission reporting on CEMs prepared from NPs using Traditional Herbal Medicine formulae, such as Kampos or Traditional Chinese Medicine protocols.

X-ray Crystal Structure Analyses

When structural determination by X-ray crystallographic analysis is a central part of a paper, the data should be attached as Supplementary Material and must be registered and deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC). When crystallographic analysis plays only an accompanying role, the crystal data (including unit cell parameters, space group, Z density) as well as the R-factor must be reported. While not a requirement, the journal advises that the data be registered with the CCDC. Various descriptive data will only be published in the final article if they are important to the article's overall rigor. These include: atomic coordinates when the structure is important; bond lengths and angles; thermal parameters; and torsion angles.

Nucleotide Sequences

Newly reported nucleotide sequences must be deposited in the DDBJ, GenBank, or EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database. An accession number must be obtained before the manuscript can be accepted by the journal. Access to the information in the database must be available at the time of publication. The accession numbers of newly reported nucleotide sequences should be noted in Materials and Methods.

Spectral and Elemental Analysis Data

Please report spectral and elemental analysis data in the following format.

^{1}H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 1.25 (3H, d, J=7.0 Hz), 3.55 (1H, q, J=7.0 Hz), 6.70 (1H, m); ^{13}C-NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ: 20.9 (q), 71.5 (d), 169.9 (s); IR (KBr) cm^{-1}: 1720, 1050, 910; UV λ_{max} (EtOH) nm (ε): 241 (10860), 288 (9380); UV λ_{max} (H_2O) nm ($\log\varepsilon$): 280 (3.25); FAB-MS m/z: 332.1258 (Calcd for $C_{18}H_{20}O_6$: 332.1259); MS m/z: 332 (M^+), 180, 168. $[\alpha]_D^{23}$ −74.5 (c=1.0, MeOH); *Anal.* Calcd for $C_{19}H_{21}NO_3$: C, 73.29; H, 6.80; N, 4.50. Found: C, 73.30; H, 6.88; N, 4.65.

Nomenclature

The nomenclature used for chemical compounds must be in accordance with IUPAC's published guidelines. Alternatively, naming may conform to the nomenclature in the index of *Chemical Abstracts* or the Ring Index. The nomenclature style must be internally consistent within the manuscript.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations must be spelled out in full and followed by the abbreviation in parentheses when first used in the Summary and in the main text. Thereafter, the abbreviation only should be used. Please limit to a minimum the use of abbreviations in the Summary and the Title.

Note that the following common abbreviations do not need to be defined:

ADP	adenosine 5′-diphosphate
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AMP	adenosine 5′-monophosphate or adenylic acid
ANOVA	analysis of variance
ATP	adenosine 5′-triphosphate
cAMP	adenosine 3′,5′-cyclic monophosphate
cDNA	complementary DNA
CoA	coenzyme A
CYP	cytochrome P450
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
ED_{50}	50% effective dose
ESR	electron spin resonance
FAB-MS	fast atom bombardment mass spectrometry
FAD	flavin adenine dinucleotide
GC-MS	gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
GLC	gas-liquid chromatography
GMP	guanosine 5′-monophosphate
HPLC	high-performance liquid chromatography, high-pressure liquid chromatography
IC_{50}	inhibitory concentration, 50%
IR	infrared
LC	liquid chromatography
LC/MS	liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry
LD_{50}	50% lethal dose
mRNA	messenger RNA
MS	mass spectrum
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
OTC	over the counter
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
QOL	quality of life
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RT-PCR	reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction
TLC	thin-layer chromatography
tRNA	transfer RNA
UV	ultraviolet

WHO	World Health Organization

Units

The following units should be used:

length	m, cm, mm, μm, nm, Å
mass	kg, g, mg, μg, ng, pg, mol, mmol, μmol
volume	L, mL, μL
time	s, min, h, d
temperature	°C, K
radiation	Bq, dpm, Gy, Sv
concentration	M, mM, mol/L, mmol/L, mg/mL, μg/mL, %, % (v/v), % (w/v), ppm, ppb

General and Editorial Policies

Authors should carefully read the journal policies below, as submission to *Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin* implies that all authors have read and approved these policies. Authors are encouraged to consult commonly accepted policy standards, which the journal supports, such as those presented by the Council of Science Editors or the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE). Submission to *Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin* also implies that all authors have seen and approve the manuscript, agree to its submission and have the right to publish the work, and that it is not defamatory or libelous. All authors also undertake that the manuscript is original and has not been published elsewhere in any language, nor is otherwise under consideration at another journal. Authors must inform the editors if any related publications have been submitted or are in press elsewhere.

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The Instructions to Authors refers to various basic acceptance criteria, including that manuscripts must fall within the journal's scope, as well as requirements for ethical behavior, compliance with human or animal experimentation policies, data policies, various technical requirements, English standard, copyright provisions, and so forth. In addition, articles in the journal must also be:

- scientifically rigorous
- novel, innovative and/or original
- important, or potentially important, to the progress of the field and the researchers within it
- constructed, written and/or placed in an appropriate context so as to be of the highest possible interest to a broad international audience.

Authorship

Contributors to *Biological and Pharmaceutical Bulletin* should meet the following criteria for authorship. All authors must:

- agree to be held accountable for all aspects of the work
- have made a substantial contribution to the work's conception or design, or in the acquisition, analysis or interpretation of data
- have written the manuscript or critically revised it for vital intellectual content
- have approved the final version of the manuscript for publication.

By submitting to the journal, the authors undertake that they have agreed to the author list and its order. Any changes to the author list (such as author order, or adding or removing authors) after peer review will rarely be approved by the journal. If requests are made, they must have strong justification and be approved by all the listed authors.

Human/Animal Experimentation

For submissions that include investigations with human subjects and/or human tissues, the authors must declare that the work was performed in accordance with the ethical principles for medical research outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki 1964 and per subsequent revisions. In addition, relevant manuscripts must contain a statement confirming that approval was received prior to the study's commencement from the appropriate ethics committees. The declaration should be clearly stated in Materials and Methods.

For submissions that include animal experimentation, the authors must declare within the manuscript that the work was performed accordance with the experimental animal guidelines of the authors' institutions. In addition, appropriate government guidelines should be followed and these should be cited in the declaration; standards must meet those as set out in and published in, for example, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. The declaration should be clearly stated in Materials and Methods.

Unoriginal Material

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The journal supports initiatives that improve the undertaking and outcomes of research. By submitting to the journal, authors agree to make their submission's materials, data and any protocols available in response to reasonable requests for it.

The journal supports the use of Supplementary Materials for data and relevant materials, or the use of relevant and accepted public repositories. See the Supplementary Materials section for further details on the format and style for these materials. Please also refer to the relevant parts of the Scientific Policies section within this document.

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Data associated with the manuscript can be published at J-STAGE Data, if both the manuscript and data are accepted for publication. Authors who wish to submit their data should contact the Editorial Office at ronb(at)pharm.or.jp for instructions. All data and datasets submitted for potential publication are peer-reviewed by the Editorial Board; only those accepted are published. Copyright within the data is retained by the author and published under the Creative Commons BY-NC (4.0) International license.

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A disclosure must be included in the main text of the manuscript in the Conflict of Interest section. If the authors have no conflict of interest, they must state as much:

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Confidentiality

All manuscripts that are under consideration, or have been returned to authors, are kept confidential. Authors agree to keep in-confidence all correspondence about their submission from the journal, editors and Editorial Office.

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The journal is organized into eight broad subject areas and each area has a Section Editor-in-Chief who is supported by several Handling Editors. The journal is supported by over 80 Handling Editors who are experts in specific areas across the journal's broad remit. Handling Editors are responsible for the peer-review process, that is, selecting and communicating with referees and making the initial and final decisions on manuscripts. Section Editors-in-Chief assign the relevant Handling Editor and have an oversight role as necessary. The journal's Editor-in-Chief has responsibility for the overall strategy of the journal and acts as a final arbiter when necessary.

The assigned Handling Editor undertakes single anonymized peer review, which is undertaken after initial screening by the Editorial Office, Section Editor-in-Chief and Handling Editor. Manuscripts clearly not conforming to the basic requirements or acceptance criteria of the journal, as outlined in these instructions, will be returned to the authors without peer review.

With the exception of Invited Reviews (which are reviewed by an Editor-in-Chief or Editor(s)), manuscripts that pass through initial screening are sent to two or more referees, who provide feedback and their opinion about the suitability of the manuscript for publication. Referees are selected on the basis of their expertise, reputation and previous experience as peer reviewers. To ensure that the journal obtains the best advice within the context of its requirements, referees are provided with a Guide to Referees that includes the journal's acceptance criteria.

The Handling Editor uses the referees' reports as the basis of their initial decision, which can be minor revision, major revision, or reject. Authors are invited to re-submit a revised version in the former two cases; for some manuscripts, a round of re-review may be deemed necessary. After revision, articles that are deemed to fulfil the journal's requirements are accepted for publication.

Revised manuscripts must be re-submitted no later than two months from the date of notification of manuscript revision by the Handling Editor. Manuscripts that are not re-submitted within two months may be rejected and have to be re-submitted as new manuscripts (which invokes a further submission fee). Authors should contact the journal if they are unable to re-submit within the required deadline.

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Regular Articles, Regular Reviews	60000	90000
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