

Mires and Peat: For Authors (01 June 2022)

Manuscripts

Mires and Peat is a multi-discipline journal but the topic of your manuscript MUST be clearly related to mires, peatlands and/or peat.

Manuscripts must be written in English. Author(s) are referred to the Tips for Authors (especially those who are not native English speakers) appended here. Those whose first language is not English are strongly advised to have their manuscripts checked by a proficient third party before submission. Where departures in usage occur, the journal adopts UK-English grammar and spelling rather than e.g. USA-English.

Please note that articles arising from postgraduate theses and commissioned research reports will usually require substantial re-writing to convert them into a format that is suitable for journal publication.

Manuscripts should be concise, but may be as (short or) long as they need to be, within reason. A rough guide to maximum length is 6,000 words or 20 printed pages, including Figures and Tables. Appendices and Supplementary Material may be added.

Each manuscript will normally be reviewed by two referees. We do not require authors to hide their identity from referees, but referees may choose not to reveal their identity to authors although they are encouraged to deliver 'open' (signed) reviews.

If your manuscript is accepted for publication, the author(s) will automatically transfer copyright to the Journal and the article will be published under a Creative Commons CC-BY licence. For our full current copyright policy, see the 'Copyright' tab on the journal's web page at <http://mires-and-peat.net/>.

Arrangement

Manuscripts should usually follow this sequence: Title; Authors(s); Authors' Affiliations; SUMMARY; KEY WORDS (up to 5 words that are not used in the title, in alphabetical order); INTRODUCTION (ending with a concise statement of the purpose of the paper); METHODS; RESULTS; DISCUSSION; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS; REFERENCES; Author for Correspondence (title, first name, last name, institutional postal address, telephone number, e-mail address).

If appropriate, an additional main section entitled e.g. 'THEORETICAL BACKGROUND' or 'STUDY AREA' may be inserted between INTRODUCTION and METHODS. However, when the work relates to one or a few specific study site(s), these should be described in the first sub-section of METHODS. If your manuscript deals with an intervention/modification, remember to check resources such as 'Conservation Evidence' (www.conservationevidence.com) and 'Collaboration for Environmental Evidence' (<https://www.environmentalevidence.org/>) and include at least a sentence in the Introduction that gives an unbiased summary of any existing evidence [see also *Mires and Peat* 24(18)]. If there is no previously published evidence, please state that.

A Conclusions section is not mandatory and should be included only if it is necessary to make the outcomes clear. We find that Conclusions are necessary only when describing unusually complex studies, and most articles work best without this section. There is absolutely no need for a Conclusions section that only summarises what has gone before. If a Conclusions section is needed, it should be inserted between the DISCUSSION and the ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

If there is only one author, the AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS section may be omitted. Otherwise, make a list of authors' responsibilities, identifying authors by their initials. For example: "AB originated and planned the work, wrote the first draft, and is the lead author; CD undertook the lab work; EF made the field observations." 'Authors' who have merely run a lab or got grants, or were overall supervisors, but have not contributed to the work or to the article itself, should be omitted.

In 'review-style' manuscripts (i.e. ones that do not fit the usual structure for experimental studies) the main headings 'METHODS', 'RESULTS' and 'DISCUSSION' may be substituted and/or augmented with other headings relating to the substance of the work that is being reported.

Technical information

The manuscript should be provided as a Word file containing the text of the proposed article (only). The text should be single-spaced in 11 pt Times New Roman characters on page size A4 (21 x 29.7 cm), with margins of 2 cm all round (top, bottom and both sides of page) and headers/footers set 1 cm from edge of page. The first line of each paragraph should be indented by 0.5 cm UNLESS it follows a section heading or a sub-section heading (in which case it should not be indented), and there should be only one character space between each pair of sentences. Pages should be numbered consecutively. Please do not use styles, autoformatting or cross-referencing, but do add line numbers. If you used reference management software whilst drafting, please remember to 'convert to plain text' before submission.

The title should be followed by one given name in full plus any additional initials and surname (family name) per author, with brief affiliations (including countries) indexed by superscripted numbers (not letters) if necessary. One 'corresponding author' should be nominated, and his/her title (e.g. Professor, Dr), first and last names, full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address should be given at the end of the manuscript. Please see articles already published in *Mires and Peat* for examples.

The Summary should report concisely on the purpose and results of the work; guideline length for the Summary is (around) 200 words.

Three headings may be used, all aligned to the left margin: **PRINCIPAL HEADING** (bold, all upper case), **First subheading** (bold, sentence case) and *Second subheading* (italics [not bold], sentence case).

For general and detailed guidance on drafting, please consult our recommended text: Clymo, R.S. (2014) *Reporting Research: A Biologist's Guide to Articles, Talks, and Posters*. Cambridge University Press, 332 pp.

Please observe also the following points when drafting:

- Units of measurement should comply with international standards (SI units) and should be written with superscripted indices not slashes (e.g. mm yr⁻¹ NOT mm/yr).
- The name and the units of a variable or parameter should be kept separate. For example: dry density in g m⁻³ NOT density in g DM m⁻³; ammonia-N influx in g m⁻² yr⁻¹ NOT ammonia influx in g N m⁻² yr⁻¹.
- Please use standard abbreviations (mm, m, Ma, t, °C, NW-SE, Pb, etc.).
- Use the word-ending 'ise' rather than 'ize' where both are available, e.g. 'minimise'.
- 'Circa' should be abbreviated to 'ca.' May be used to indicate approximate historical dates but NOT approximate quantities.
- Use long (En dash) hyphens [Ctrl+Fn+;(semicolon)] for ranges e.g. (pages) "237–261" and short hyphens to divide and connect words, e.g. "north-western".

- *Mires and Peat* does not use the abbreviations “Fig.” and “Tab.” for Figures and Tables.
- Be aware of and avoid frequently misused words, for example:
 - Impact: a sudden and damaging effect; widely misused for a simple ‘effect’;
 - Parameter: in a graph with a straight line fitted to $y = bx + a$ the axes (y, x) are ‘variables’; while ‘b’ and ‘a’ are parameters that select a particular line from all possible lines.
 - Ratio: ‘39:13’ is a ratio (it has two numbers separated by a colon); but for plotting or calculations one usually needs the single value result of $39/13 = 3$, which is a ‘quotient’.

Citations

References in the text to other articles should merely indicate the name of the author (followed by an ampersand (&) and the name of the second author when there are two or by “*et al.*” in italics when there are more than two) and the publication date of the article in parentheses. If the submitted manuscript refers to two articles by the same (cited) authors from the same year, they should be distinguished by ‘a’, ‘b’ etc. appended to the date. For example: Robert & Kelly (1987a), Köppel (1983), Basto Neto *et al.* (1991) or (Robert & Kelly 1987a) etc. Where two or more citations are listed together, they should be presented in date order (earliest first) and separated by commas, e.g. (Köppel 1983, Robert & Kelly 1987a, Basto Neto *et al.* 1991). If reference is made to two or more different authors with the same surname publishing in the same year, they should be distinguished by adding initial(s) to the citation(s) in the text (e.g. A. Smith *et al.* 2015, B.J. Smith *et al.* 2015).

List of references

Each reference list item should be presented as a separate paragraph (no line spaces between paragraphs) with the first line aligned to left-hand margin of the page and the remainder ‘hanging’ by 0.5 cm. The References should include all the citations quoted in the text and only those citations, listing the authors alphabetically and then chronologically when several references by the same author(s) are given. Items by the same first author plus more than one other (i.e. cited in the text as e.g. ‘Smith *et al.*’) should be listed after any single-author or two-author items from the same first author, in date order. For crowd-authored items (more than ~20 authors), name only the first four and follow with ‘and n others’. There should normally be no ampersands (&) in the list of references. If an author has more than one initial, the initials should be separated by fullstops with NO intervening character spaces. Quote journal names in full, NOT abbreviated form. For journals that use an article number as unique identifier, for clarity also show the number of pages in the article (pdf version). References should be cited as ‘in press’ only if already accepted for publication, in which case the journal name, volume number, year and/or doi must be stated. Book and journal titles should be in italics and ‘capitalised’ (uppercase initial letters for all words excluding prepositions). For books, please give any series or volume information (optional) then the publisher, place of publication and either the total number of pages or the page range(s) for the material cited. For articles in books, combine the above rules following the appropriate example below. Where a reference is published in a language other than English, a translation of the title should be given in parentheses and the language of publication indicated. For items that are available both on paper and via the internet, “Online at:” and a web address with date (last) accessed may be appended in the reference list. References that are exclusively available by internet, and whose authorship is not clear, should be listed under the name of the author or owner of the web site. Where the reference is in a language that is written in non-Roman characters, the ‘international standard’ Roman transliteration of the citation may be used. For languages written in non-Roman characters, a subsidiary reference list giving the non-Roman references cross-referenced to the transliterated items in the main reference list

may (optionally) be included where authors feel that this is necessary to facilitate location of the material by readers; see *Mires and Peat* Volume 2 (2007) Article 01 for an example.

Examples (journal articles):

- Gaudig, G., Krebs, M., Prager, A., Wichmann, S. and 30 others (2018) Sphagnum farming from species selection to the production of growing media: a review. *Mires and Peat*, 20, 13, 30 pp.
- Kempel, A., Bornand, C.N., Gygax, A., Juillerat, P., Jutzi, M., Sager, L., Bäumlner, B., Eggenberg, S., Fischer, M. (2020) Nationwide revisitation reveals thousands of local extinctions across the ranges of 713 threatened and rare plant species. *Conservation Letters*, 13(6), e12749, 8 pp.
- Schuch, M. (1991) Moorforschung und Moornutzung sowie die landwirtschaftliche Niedermoornutzung und ihre Bedeutung für den Naturschutz in Bayern (Peatland research, peatland use and the agricultural utilisation of fens and their importance for nature conservation in Bavaria). *Telma*, 21, 19–126 (in German).
- Williams, S.T., Gray, T.R.G. (1974) Net primary production of the dominant bryophytes in a *Sphagnum*-dominated wetland in West Virginia. *Bryologist*, 86, 280–286.

Examples (books, including 'grey literature' reports, PhD theses, etc.):

- Bragg, O., Lindsay, R. (eds.) (2003) *Strategy and Action Plan for Mire and Peatland Conservation in Central Europe*. Publ. No. 18, Wetlands International, Wageningen, 93 pp. Online at: <http://www.wetlands.org/pubs&/CEPP.htm>, accessed 13 Oct 2018.
- Rydin, H., Jeglum, J.K. (2006) *The Biology of Peatlands*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 58–76, 138–163.
- Tsinzerling, Yu.D. (1938) *Rastitel'nost' bolot / Rastitel'nost' SSSR. T.1. Moskva-Leningrad (Vegetation of Mires / Vegetation of USSR. 1. Moscow-Leningrad)*. Izdatelstvo Akademii Nauk SSSR, Moscow, 355–428 (in Russian).
- Turbridy, M. (ed.) (1984) *Creation and Management of a Heritage Zone at Clonmacnoise, Co. Offaly, Ireland*. EEC Final Report, Environmental Science Unit, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 206 pp.

Examples (articles in edited books and Proceedings Volumes):

- Naucke, W. (1990) Chemie von Moor und Torf (Peatland and peat chemistry). In: Göttlich, K. (ed.) *Moor und Torfkunde (Peatland and Peat Science)*, E. Schweizerbart, Stuttgart, 237–261 (in German).
- Finney, H.R., Gross, E.R., Farnham, R.S. (1974) Limnic materials in peatlands of Minnesota. In: Stelly, M. (ed.) *Histosols: Their Characteristics, Classification and Use*, Special Publications No. 6, Soil Science Society of America, Madison WI, 21–31.

Examples (internet sources):

- DWD (2006) Deutscher Wetterdienst: Mittelwerte der Periode 1961 bis 1990 (German Weather Service: mean values for the period 1961–1990) (in German). Online at: http://www.dwd.de/de/FundE/Klima/KLIS/daten/online/nat/index_mittelwerte.htm, accessed 25 Jul 2021.
- NLP Jasmund (2006) *Nationalpark Jasmund: Klima und Böden (Jasmund National Park: Climate and Soils)* (in German). Online at: [http://www.nationalpark-jasmund.de/\(Das Gebiet/ Klima und Böden\)](http://www.nationalpark-jasmund.de/(Das%20Gebiet/Klima%20und%20B%C3%B6den)), accessed 02 Feb 2014.

Tables and Figures

Tables and Figures are referred to in the text as (Table 1), (Figure 1), and their legends/captions should be complete and understandable in their own right. Each legend/caption should start with, e.g., 'Figure 1.' or 'Table 1.' (not bold or italics, no hyperlinks, end with a fullstop).

All of the Tables and Figures (treat other illustrations as Figures) including legends/captions should be provided in ONE separate Word file on page size A4 (21 x 29.7 cm), with margins of 2 cm all round (top, bottom and both sides of page) and headers/footers set 1 cm from edge of page (as for Text). Font: Times New Roman 11 pt. normal, single line spacing. Within this file, Figures and Tables should be presented in

order of first mention in the text. To identify these locations in the Word file containing text, highlight the reference to the relevant Table or Figure in cyan.

Each Table or Figure may occupy the full width of page in portrait (preferred) or landscape orientation, or be designed to fit in one column (of two); remember to size the text used for labels accordingly. The legend/caption should be placed ABOVE a Table and BELOW a Figure, separated by one blank line. Please leave one or more blank lines before and after each Figure/Table; insert page breaks as required.

For each (single-element) Figure, make a Table (in Word) with one column and two rows. Set the margins of the first cell to zero (all round), then insert the graphic for Figure 1; adopt the default margins for the second cell and insert the caption. For composite Figures, add cells with zero-width margins as required.

If a need to replace a Figure arises at a late stage of final layout, you should provide it as an individual file in a recognised image format, at a resolution of at least 300 dpi. for an area usually between 5 and 12 cm across. Bit image files in '.tif', '.tiff', '.png', or in vector image '.svg' are the best. These can be compressed and decompressed without loss of information. The '.jpg', '.jpeg' formats are suitable if that is the format of the original image, as it often is with photographs, but should not be used otherwise because every time a 'jpeg' image is saved some information is lost, even with a 'no compression' setting. The '.raw' format for photographs is not suitable because there are numerous proprietary variants of it.

Supplementary material

Mires and Peat aims for flexibility on the range of supplementary material that can be included; please ask about possibilities if you want to include something unusual.

In general (and within reason), anything that can be incorporated into a Word file can be added as an Appendix to the article, allowing the reader choice about how many of the pages to print if a paper copy is required. Other material (e.g. Excel spreadsheets, movies, translations, Manuals) can be published as separately downloadable supplements. Material for an Appendix can be included in the file of Figures and Tables if compatible (e.g. a Table of data, additional Figures; number these starting with 'Table A1' or 'Figure A1'). If it seems more appropriate/practical, material for Appendices may be submitted as (a) separate file(s).

Tips for authors

Write well:

- Apply guidelines for good writing, e.g. Strunk: The elements of style.
- Follow all guidance provided by Clymo (2014) - see the main Instructions to Authors.
- Let experienced authors criticise your text.

Write in English:

- Write directly in English. If you are not a native speaker, do not translate from your mother tongue because different languages use different phraseology. Distrust translation machines.
- Make intensive use of a dictionary (in both directions, e.g. German-English and English-German) and an English thesaurus.
- Let a (near-) native speaker, with expertise in grammar and spelling, check your text.

Write clearly:

- Avoid vague and non-specific words. Remember that every term must have an exact meaning.
- Define important terms (such as mire, bog, rich, eutrophic...).
- Use one term for one concept and avoid synonyms.
- Use would, should, could, may, might and can only for expressing real uncertainty.
- Use definite, simple language and avoid abbreviations.
- Use sentences connected by and, but, who, which, when, where, and while only occasionally.
- Make text in Figures large enough to be readable even after reduction, especially if the Figure is designed to fit into the width of a single column.

Write concisely:

- Make definite assertions; avoid tame, colourless, hesitant and ambiguous language.
- Omit needless words.
- Use the active voice.
- Use positive form, even for negative statements; e.g. "we ignored" rather than "we did not pay attention to".
- Wherever possible, present a complex idea in one sentence rather than in a series of sentences.
- Use Tables and Figures to structure and simplify the paper.
- Keep the text clear, but avoid 'telegram style'.

Write paragraphs:

- Deal with each topic in a separate paragraph.
- Start every paragraph with a sentence that either indicates the topic or provides a transition from the last paragraph.
- Present paragraphs in a logical order.

Write modestly:

- Avoid awkward adverbs and fancy words.
- Use nouns and verbs in preference to adjectives and adverbs.
- Use orthodox (non-experimental) English spelling.
- Avoid qualifiers like unique, most optimal (!), rather, very, little, relatively, pretty,
- Avoid exclamation marks.

Refer correctly:

- Use cf. (Latin confer, compare) when quoting indirectly.
- Use 'modified from' to indicate Figures or Tables that have been modified from other publications.
- Use 'after' when presenting data from another publication in a different form.
- Include all cited references, with complete bibliographic data, in the Reference List.

Follow the standard outline:

1. Title of article; this should give a concise indication of the content.
2. Name(s) (preferred given name (in full), any other initials and family name) and short affiliation(s) of author(s); note that 'author for correspondence' comes after REFERENCES.
3. SUMMARY: gives a short overview of the content of the paper.
4. KEY WORDS (aim for about 5): do not repeat words that appear in the title, arrange alphabetically, separate with commas, no punctuation mark at end of the list.
5. INTRODUCTION: contains the background to, and formulation of, the research question. Ends with a concise statement of the purpose of the paper.
6. Specific introduction (optional): for example, general description of a study area, or outline of any theoretical background a reader will need to understand the research.
7. METHODS: a clear description of what was done (sufficient to enable a reader to repeat the research). Should include a description of any field area/site where the research was carried out.
8. RESULTS: presents the results in an objective way, without discussion.
9. DISCUSSION: discusses the results and their interpretation in the context of other research, in terms of answering the research question.
10. Conclusions: may (very seldom) be needed to draw together threads from a very complex study.
11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: if your submission arises from a conference presentation, mention it here; also consider mentioning funders, colleagues who helped, reviewers and editors.
12. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS: if there is more than one author.
13. REFERENCES: every literature source mentioned (cited) in text, captions, Tables, Appendices and Supplementary Material should have a corresponding entry in the reference list.