

## Aims and Instructions for Authors

*Frontiers of Biogeography* — the scientific magazine of the International Biogeography Society (ISSN 1948-6596) aims to be a forum for biogeographers and a way to disseminate research in biogeography to a broader audience. We welcome contributions from all biogeographers or other persons interested in biogeography or in applying biogeographical knowledge, whether or not they are members of the International Biogeography Society (IBS, <http://www.biogeography.org/>). Publications within the scope of the magazine include various news items, reviews, opinions and perspectives, interviews, articles on how to teach, disseminate and/or apply biogeographical knowledge, as detailed below, but not original research papers based on data.

## Manuscript preparation and submission

When preparing a manuscript for *Frontiers of biogeography*, please check the sections of the magazine described below, identify the type of article you intend to submit, and determine whether a pre-submission enquiry is required. Follow the instructions on manuscript length and format according to the manuscript type. Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word or other compatible formats. Text should include the postal addresses, e-mails and URLs for all authors, and a picture of the author in the case of *Perspectives*, and of the interviewee in the case of *Profiles*. Please check recent issues of the journal for the format of references. Figures can be embedded at the end of the text file, inserted in a MS PowerPoint file, or sent in a common format such as emf, wmf, png for vectorial graphs and maps, and jpeg, tiff or gif for pictures and drawings. Colour figures and pictures are welcome. Unless stated otherwise, all submissions and enquiries should be made by e-mail to the editor-in-chief through the e-mails [ibs@mncn.csic.es](mailto:ibs@mncn.csic.es) or [frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com](mailto:frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com).

## Sections

### *editorial*

Digests or highlights of issue contents related to current affairs in biogeography. Usually commissioned and written by the editorial board or IBS officers, but proposals of topics warranting editorial comment will be considered.

### *news and update*

A digest of the most recent advances in biogeography, including short and easy-to-read summaries of the current state-of-the-art and longer commentaries of more technical content. Six types of contributions will be published in this section:

*news.*- Recent news covering any topic related to biogeography, including announcements of new journals, special issues or new journal sections. Length 400 words maximum; avoid or explain technical jargon. Not peer-reviewed.

*update.*- Highlights of papers in press or recently published that are selected from a survey of the previous quarters' literature, press releases, and editor's highlights. Typically, papers are selected and writers commissioned by the editorial team, but proposals to write about a particular paper are welcome via e-mail to the editor-in-chief or any of the associate editors. Proposals to highlight a paper will also be considered, but should also recommend three persons who might write the update. Written in easy-to-read language. Length 400 words maximum; citations include only the highlighted paper or, exceptionally, up to two additional references. Light peer review.

*commentary.*- Highlights the significance of recent research and/or discusses recent findings. Typically the editorial board will select recently published papers, groups of papers or special issues, and commission a researcher to write the commentary, discussing their significance, implications and relations with the body of knowledge on its specific area of research. Proposals for a commentary are welcome via e-mail to the editor-in-chief or any of the associate editors. Length 1,000 words maximum, including references. Light peer review.

*dissertation abstract.*- 'Long abstracts' of recently completed PhD dissertations, including a brief summary of the state-of-the-field plus the contributions provided by the thesis, preferably coincident with graduation from the PhD granting institution. Dissertation abstracts should clearly articulate how unpublished chapters and/or published papers fit together and warrant attention as a single body of work. If data are a major contribution of the thesis, these may alternatively be reported as *data resources* (see below). Authors interested in submitting a dissertation abstract should contact the editor-in-chief in advance. Length 2,500 words maximum including references. Peer review.

*book review.*- Reviews of recently published books (less than one year old) on biogeography or of interest for biogeographers should outline the contents and contributions to an area of research. Texts critiquing the thesis of a book or extensively discussing its context within the field may be more appropriate as, and redirected by the editors to, *opinion* or *commentary* sections. Length typically 1,000 words and never more than 2,000 words including at most 10 references. Written in a light style. Editorial review.

*workshop/symposium summary.*- Overviews of workshops, symposia or meetings focused in a particular question or the biogeography of a region. Proposals welcome via e-mail to the editor-in-chief or any of the associate editors. Length 1,000 words maximum, including references. Light peer review.

### **profiles**

Interviews or biographies by journalists or members of the editorial board of biogeographers or other scientists whose work has greatly advanced the field of biogeography. All recipients of the Alfred Russel Wallace award will be interviewed. Periodical series of interviews may be constructed around a common theme (e.g., conservation biogeography), to convey the viewpoints of biogeographers, other scientists, and stakeholders on how biogeography research does and should contribute to current affairs. Proposals for interviewees and/or thematic series and expressions of in-

terest by guest interviewers will be considered via e-mail to the editor-in-chief or any of the associate editors. Length 1,000 – 1,500 words; no references. Editorial review.

Obituaries summarizing the biography and contributions of a recently deceased biogeographers will also be considered.

### **opinion and perspectives**

Surveys of the discipline, supported by the literature, expressed in the form of an opinion, perspective, or review.

*opinion.*- Single or sets of opinion papers that question current lines of research, theories, methodologies or 'schools of thought'; must be of general interest and may take the form of responses to or critiques of specific published papers or prior opinions. This forum should foster candid but civil discussion somewhat less constrained than perspectives or reviews. Length maximum 2,000 words plus references. Peer review will assess support for the opinion in the literature or sub-field of the literature, but will not reject a manuscript on the grounds of contrary opinion unless evinced by overwhelming published data and/or theory.

*perspective.*- The viewpoints of established researchers on broad areas of biogeographical research intending to significantly advance an approach, concept, or other important facet by stating their perspective formed from a review of current evidence. Better substantiated by a body of published evidence than opinions and stated in a milder way but still potentially representing a minority view or one that has fallen from favor for no obvious reason. Length 2,000 - 3,000 words plus references; longer contributions will be considered by the editorial board. Peer review to substantiate that the perspective is not strongly contradicted by available evidence. Perspectives will be requested by the editorial board or commissioned after receipt of proposals in the form of a short (<1 page) letter of intent.

**resources**

Announcements, highlights and promotion of new resources available for generation or analyses of biogeographical data, the resources created to apply biogeographical knowledge. We also publish *mini-reviews* as basic resources for the biogeographers. In addition to the *toolbox* and *data* categories (below), all other kinds of resources also will be considered (e.g. web-based resources, databases); please e-mail the editor-in-chief or any an associate editor with proposals. The IBS is committed to acting as a long-term host of resources on its webpages. Length maximum 1,500 words (except mini-reviews) including permanent link to the resource; longer texts should be agreed in advance with the editorial board. Editorial review except for *mini-reviews*; light peer review when considered necessary.

*toolbox*.- Descriptions of new software (preferably freeware), packages in R and new analyses or analytical frameworks. Texts should describe the application, its use, and when necessary illustrate its operation with worked examples.

*data*.- Descriptions of large datasets of significance for biogeographical research. Papers should (a) completely describe the rationale for collection or compilation of the data, the origin of the data, the methods used to gather and unify it, (b) state which data are the original intellectual property of the authors and/or properly acknowledge and describe the sources of these data, and (c) make the data publicly and freely accessible by deposition with IBS or another stable provider.

*mini-reviews*.- A summary of any biogeographical topic reflecting the balance of evidence in the published literature. Mini-reviews often will be up-to-date general knowledge on a topic enabling researchers to follow advances in areas outside their immediate research focus, and providing students, technicians and non-specialists in general with a rigorous introduction to these subjects. Mini-reviews may also synthesize the contributions of classic authors, particularly bringing their lesser-known works into focus, or review the origins and growth of the current avant garde. Length maximum 3,000 words plus references. Peer review.

**agora**

Specifically intended to facilitate the gathering and application of biogeographic knowledge relevant to current and future affairs, *agora* aims to be a meeting place for a rich dialogue among all people with interests in any aspect of biogeography, including education, practice, and research. Therefore, several kinds of articles will be accepted for this section, including *digests* where research in biogeography is explained in an easy way for those of us who are not research scientists, and articles on how to *communicate*, *teach* or *apply* biogeographical knowledge. Examples include advice from journal editors on what and how to publish research in biogeography, librarians on publishing trends, active scientists on how to prepare successful manuscripts, policy-makers on data gaps, filmmakers or newspaper editors on public communication, bloggers, etc., as well as papers on how biogeography is taught in different countries, or different institutions, and also on new experiences, or new educational tools. This section will include texts written by journalists, scholars, or practicing biogeographers avoiding technical jargon and using clear and current examples to illustrate concepts. Periodical series of interviews may be constructed around a common theme (e.g., teaching biogeography). Contributions will be invited by the editors, and proposals and completed papers are encouraged. Proposals for thematic series and expressions of interest will be considered via e-mail to the editor-in-chief or any of the associate editors. No length limitation, but texts over 3,000 words must be agreed with the editorial board. Editorial review, plus peer review if articles report on educational research.

**membership corner**

This section provides a way of communication from the IBS officers to the society, and also among all IBS members. This includes information on any matter relevant to the society and its members, such as changes in benefits, deliberations of the board, and IBS-sponsored events and meetings. Contributions from any member of the IBS are welcome. No length limitation, but texts

over 200 words must be agreed with the editorial board. Editorial review.

Also, *announcements* and/or *advertisements* on forthcoming meetings, courses, job offers, recently published books, calls for papers, etc. that could be of interest for the members of the IBS are all welcome.

### ***images***

Submissions of pictures or maps independently from articles are also welcome, providing a short caption with them, as well as the author and, when possible, his/her URL. Length 100-200 words. Editorial review.

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## **editorial board**

### **editor-in-chief:**

[Joaquín Hortal](#) – Imperial College London, UK

### **associate editors:**

[Antje Ahrends](#) – Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK

[Jan Beck](#) – University of Basel, Switzerland

[Chris Burridge](#) – University of Tasmania, Australia

[Richard Field](#) – University of Nottingham, UK

[Camilla Fløjgaard](#) – Aarhus University, Denmark

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[Richard Pearson](#) – American Museum of Natural History, USA

[Thiago F. Rangel](#) – University of Connecticut, USA

[Núria Roura-Pascual](#) – Centre Tecnològic Forestal de Catalunya, Spain

[Spyros Sfenthourakis](#) – University of Patras, Greece

### **advisory board:**

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[Lawrence R. Heaney](#) – Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA

[Mark V. Lomolino](#) – State University of New York, USA