

## Aims and scope

*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 broad 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/>). Our scope includes news, original research letters, reviews, opinions and perspectives, interviews, and articles on how to teach, disseminate and/or apply biogeographical knowledge. Below are the types of contribution accepted (categorized by section), followed by instructions for manuscript length, formatting, etc. Unless stated otherwise (for particular sections), enquiries should be made by e-mail to [frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com](mailto:frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com). Small fees are payable for some types of publication in the journal; for details please see the final section below.

## Sections

### *research letters*

Short and concise manuscripts presenting original scientific research. Proposals for special issues composed of different contributions on a particular topic or research field are welcome, via e-mail to the editorial office. Peer review.

### *opinions, perspectives and reviews*

Surveys of the discipline, supported by the literature, expressed in one of the following forms.

*opinion.*- Papers that question current lines of research, theories, methodologies or 'schools of thought'. Opinion pieces must be of general interest to biogeographers and may take the form of responses to, or critiques of, specific published papers (including opinion papers) or established opinions. This forum should foster candid but civil discussion that is somewhat less constrained than perspectives or reviews. Peer review will assess support for the opinion in the literature or subfield 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, where the researchers intend to significantly advance an approach, concept or other important facet, by stating their perspective formed from a review of current evidence. Thus perspectives are 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 favour for insufficient reasons. Peer review will substantiate that the perspective is internally consistent and not strongly contradicted by available evidence.

*mini-reviews.*- A summary of any biogeographical topic, reflecting the balance of evidence in the published literature. Mini-reviews will often 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 current research. Proposals for longer reviews will be considered. Peer review.

### *news and update*

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

*news.*- Recent news covering any topic related to biogeography. Avoid jargon and explain necessary technical terms. Editorial review.

*update.*- Articles highlighting papers in press or recently published, special issues, the significance of recent research and/or discussing recent findings. Longer texts shall discuss how the highlighted research fits with the body of knowledge in its specific area of research, and its general implications. Written in easy-to-read

language. If you wish to write an update, please send a proposals via e-mail to the editorial office no later than three months after the highlighted research has been published in print. This is to avoid multiple submissions on the same material. Editorial/Peer review.

**workshop/symposium summary.**- Overviews of recent workshops, symposia or meetings, focused on a particular question or the biogeography of a region. Proposals should be sent via e-mail to the editorial office no later than one month after the meeting was held. Editorial/Peer review.

**book review.**- Reviews of recently published books (typically less than one year old) on biogeography or of particular interest to biogeographers. There is also a 'Noted with Interest' section providing brief details of other new books. Anyone may suggest books for review to the Book Review Editor, Dr Markus Eichhorn, School of Biology, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom; telephone ++44 (0)115 951 3214; e-mail markus.eichhorn@nottingham.ac.uk. We welcome offers to review books for *Frontiers of Biogeography*, but will not accept an offer to review a specific book. Anyone wishing to review books should send a brief *curriculum vitae*, description of competencies and a statement of reviewing interests to the Book Review Editor. Reviews should be in an essay style, expressing an opinion about the value of the book, its focus and breadth, setting it in the context of recent developments within the field of study. Reviews of textbooks should consider their utility as resources for teaching and learning. Avoid describing the book chapter-by-chapter or listing typographical errors. Authors may suggest a short title for the review, followed by the title of the book(s), the authors/editors, publisher, publication date, price, hbk/pbk, pages, ISBN and website (where available). Figures or tables will not ordinarily be included. Authors of reviews must verify that they have not offered (and will not offer) a review of the same book to another journal, and must declare any potential conflict of interest that might interfere with their objectivity. Editorial review; peer review in some circumstances.

**dissertation abstract.**- 'Long abstracts' of recently completed PhD dissertations/theses, including a brief summary of the state of the field plus the contributions provided by the thesis. Dissertation abstracts should clearly articulate how the chapters (either published or unpublished) 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). The dissertation abstract should be submitted within six months of graduation from the PhD granting institution, and should clearly list chapters already published (including citation) and those yet to be published at time of submission. An embargo for the publication of the dissertation abstract may be granted upon request if one or several chapters have not been yet accepted for publication of the time of the final acceptance of the manuscript. Peer review.

## resources

Announcements, highlights and promotion of new resources available for generation or analysis of biogeographical data, or for the application of biogeographical knowledge. 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 proposals to the section coordinator, Marcus Cianciaruso ([cianciaruso@gmail.com](mailto:cianciaruso@gmail.com)), except in the case of *biogeography compendium* (see below). Texts longer than regular size (see below) should be agreed in advance. A permanent link to the resource should be included. Peer review.

**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 and the methods used to gather and unify them, (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 a stable provider (e.g. Dryad, PURL; *Frontiers of Biogeography* will provide this service when necessary).

**biogeography compendium.**- A concise yet comprehensive compilation of articles providing short updates on key biogeographical topics. *Biogeography compendium* articles are intended for teaching biogeography

at the graduate/postgraduate level, but can also provide technicians, non-specialists or researchers from other areas with an overview of the current state of the topic. Boxes and/or quotations of empirical and/or experimental examples are encouraged, as well as well-designed figures illustrating the main concepts. A *biogeography compendium* should preferably be accompanied online by one or several powerpoint slides and/or high-quality images that can be used for teaching or other presentations. Other effective or imaginative use of online media is welcome. Proposals for *biogeography compendium* articles should be directed to Roy Erkens ([r.h.j.erkens@uu.nl](mailto:r.h.j.erkens@uu.nl)). 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 *teach, communicate or apply* biogeographical knowledge. Examples include advice from journal editors on publishing research in biogeography, librarians on publishing trends, active scientists on how to prepare successful manuscripts, policy-makers on data/knowledge gaps, filmmakers, newspaper editors or bloggers on public communication, etc. Other possibilities are papers on how biogeography is taught in different countries, or different institutions, and also on new experiences, or new educational tools. Papers in this section should avoid technical jargon and use clear and current examples to illustrate concepts. Periodical series of interviews may be constructed around a common theme (e.g., teaching biogeography). Proposals for articles, thematic series and expressions of interest will be considered via e-mail to section coordinator, Richard Ladle ([richard.ladle@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:richard.ladle@ouce.ox.ac.uk)). Editorial review, plus peer review if articles report on educational research.

### **profiles**

*Interviews* or *biographies* of scientists whose work has greatly advanced the field of biogeography. All recipients of the IBS's Alfred Russel Wallace and MacArthur & Wilson awards 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 interest by guest interviewers are encouraged. Editorial review.

*Obituaries* summarizing the biography and contributions of recently deceased biogeographers.

### **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.

### **membership corner**

This section provides a way for the IBS officers to communicate with the society, and also facilitates communication among all IBS members. This includes information on any matter relevant to the society and its members, such as changes in member benefits, deliberations of the board and IBS-sponsored events and meetings. Contributions from any member of the IBS are welcome. Proposals and submissions for this section should be directed to Matthew J. Heard ([heard.m@gmail.com](mailto:heard.m@gmail.com)). Editorial review.

Also, this section includes *announcements* and/or *advertisements* on any matter (e.g. jobs, conferences, forthcoming books) of interest for the members of the IBS. Advertisement by non-IBS members carries a small fee (US\$50) which may be waived if an adequate case is made. Note: advertisements are posted for free on the IBS blog and the IBS facebook channel. Please contact the editorial office at [frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com](mailto:frontiersofbiogeography@gmail.com).

## images

Submissions of pictures or maps independently from articles are also welcome, provided that they are accompanied by a short caption (no more than 200 words), the author's name and, when possible, his/her URL. Editorial review.

## Manuscript preparation and submission

When preparing a manuscript for *Frontiers of Biogeography*, please check the sections of the magazine described above, 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 (see below). Use SI units, avoid over-use of abbreviations and define all uncommon abbreviations within the text. Please keep the text clear and concise, avoiding long, complex sentences and long verbal constructions (e.g., prefer "method X worked better" to "we have found that method X achieved better results").

Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word or other compatible formats. Figures and tables should be numbered in order of appearance in the text, and should be cited as follows: (Table 1, Fig. 2); number figures and tables as 1, 2, etc. and plates within figures as a, b, etc. Provide concise but informative captions for figures and tables, which allow the illustration to be understandable without reference to the main text. 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 and incur no charge.

## Manuscript length and format

Both American and UK English will be accepted provided that the chosen type is used consistently within the article. The active voice should be used whenever possible. The title should be concise and informative.

- *research letters, opinion, toolbox, data and dissertation abstracts*: 2,500 words maximum, including a short abstract (up to 150 words), plus additionally up to 25 references and four figures/tables. Slightly longer manuscripts may be allowed if justified. Provide 5–8 keywords and a running title of no more than 40 characters. Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s) should be provided at the beginning of the text, and must include department, institution, country and postal address, plus e-mail and a URL for at least one of the authors.
- *perspectives, mini-reviews and biogeography compendium*: 3,500 words maximum, including an abstract of no more than 200 words, plus additionally up to 50 references and six figures/tables/boxes (eight in the case of *biogeography compendium*). Longer contributions will be considered by the editorial board. Keywords, running title, name(s) and affiliation(s) as for *research letters* (above). A picture of the leading author (or a group picture of the authors) should be provided in the case of *perspectives*.
- *news, update, book reviews, workshop/symposium summaries, biographies and obituaries*: 1,400 words maximum, and up to 10 references (longer texts may be allowed upon request); *news* and *updates* or *summaries* of a single article should be <400 words. The symposium or book details should be provided after the title when applicable. Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s) should be provided at the end of the text, before the reference list; affiliations should include department, institution, country, plus e-mail and a URL for at least one of the authors, but not full postal address. Exceptionally, one figure, table or box is allowed, if informative. Pictures are welcome for *biographies* and *obituaries*.
- *agora and interviews*: 3,500 words maximum, including an abstract of no more than 200 words for *agora* texts, and a short introduction to the interviewee for *interviews*; longer texts may be agreed with the section editor. A picture of the interviewee should be provided in the case of *interviews*.
- Pieces for the *membership corner* are usually no more than 200 words; longer pieces can be agreed with the section editor.

## References

Citations within the text should provide the author's name and the year of publication, as in this example: “this is likely (Heaney and Lomolino 2009) but Koch (2010) argued that it is not always true”. When referring to past works the past tense should be used as a standard. References of three or more authors should be cited using “et al.” and avoiding italics: (Roy et al. 2004). Papers by the same author and year should be cited as a, b, c, etc. after the year of publication: (Iverson and Prasad 1998a,b). When citing a list of references, place them in date order and alphabetically when within a year, separated by commas, as follows: (Elton 1927, Iverson and Prasad 1998b, Roy et al. 2004, Vrba and DeGusta 2004, Soberón and Peterson 2005, Davies et al. 2008, Heaney and Lomolino 2009). Unpublished data and works either in preparation or not yet accepted for publication may be cited only within the text, but not in the reference list, as follows: (J.A.F. Diniz-Filho, P. De Marco Jr and L.M. Bini unpublished). Personal communications may be quoted in the text, with permission from the colleague, and should be cited as follows: (J. Soberón, University of Kansas, personal communication). Webpages should be cited as footnotes including their full URL and date of access, except in the case the resource they host can be cited as a common work, as follows: “Taxonomic identifications follow Schoolmeesters (2010) and the most recent updates in the Scarabaeinae lifedesk<sup>1</sup>.” Footnote: “1. <http://scarabaeinae.lifedesks.org/>, last accessed 30/12/2011.” Different URLs can be included in the same footnote. Footnotes should be numbered by first appearance in the text, and their use for anything other than websites limited.

The reference list should be sorted alphabetically by first author, then by number of authors (one, two, three or more), and then chronologically within each one of these categories. Multi-authored works with more than 10 authors should list only the first three authors followed by et al. Titles of journals should be given in full. References should be formatted following the examples below:

Davies, T.J., Fritz, S.A., Grenyer, R., et al. (2008) Phylogenetic trees and the future of mammalian biodiversity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*, 105, 11556–11563.

Elton, C.S. (1927) *Animal ecology*. Sidwick and Jackson, London.

Roy, K., Jablonski, D. & Valentine, J.W. (2004) Beyond species richness: biogeographic patterns and biodiversity dynamics using other metrics of diversity. In: *Frontiers of biogeography – New directions in the geography of nature* (ed. by M.V. Lomolino and L.R. Heaney), pp. 151–170. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA.

Schoolmeesters, P. (2010) Scarabs: World Scarabaeidae database (version Jul 2010). In *Species 2000 & ITIS Catalogue of Life 2011 Annual Checklist*. (ed. by F.A. Bisby, Y.R. Roskov, T. Orrell, D. Nicolson, L. Pagliawan, N. Bailly, P.M. Kirk, T. Bourgoin, G. Baillargeon and D. Ouvrard). Species 2000, Reading, UK. Digital resource available at <http://www.catalogueoflife.org/annual-checklist/2011/>.

Soberón, J. & Peterson, A.T. (2005) Interpretation of models of fundamental ecological niches and species' distribution areas. *Biodiversity Informatics*, 2, 1–10.

## Publication fees

*Frontiers of biogeography* is an online Open Access journal. Ability to pay will have no bearing on acceptance for publication. Publication costs may be totally or partially waived for researchers with no or little access to funds, at the discretion of the editor-in-chief; if you or your institution do not have funds for publication in Open Access journals, please request a fee-waiver by briefly explaining your situation in the cover letter with the original submission. *Research letters, opinions, perspectives, toolbox, data and mini-reviews* are published at a nominal cost of US\$200 (non-IBS members) or US\$100 (IBS members). *Updates, workshop/symposium summaries and dissertation abstracts* are published at a nominal cost of US\$100 (non-IBS) but are free for IBS members. Invited articles are published free of charge. Specific agreements can be set up *a priori* for special issues.