

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

Forest Ecology, Landscape Research and Nature Conservation (in German: **Waldökologie, Landschaftsforschung und Naturschutz**, abbreviated **WLN**) is an **open access journal**, which publishes research articles and notes and critical review papers. Articles are peer-reviewed and should be original, of high scientific quality and of international interest. The journal scope is to cover aspects of both basic and applied research of all domain of forest science and other related sciences, which contribute to sustainable landscape management.

Edited by the [editorial board of WLN](#).

Indexed in: [SCOPUS](#)

The manuscripts will be sent to the editorial board via e-mail.

The information (Word documents, figures, graphs) must be in a proper form, according to the following author's recommendations. The editorial board will usually reject manuscripts not in conformity with the recommendations.

1. General

(i) Research papers must be original and refer to topics of fundamental or applied research. They must focus on new results and data. The number of printed pages is basically not limited, but extensive submissions (exceeding 20 printed pages) might be asked to concise or to extract selected components for exclusive download application. In particular cases they will be accepted uncut for publication of special issues.

(ii) Research notes should concern a specific aspect or preliminary results of ongoing research. They represent a concise description of one research aim. The exigencies regarding the description of the methods and the references are those of a scientific paper.

(iii) Review articles present the achievements on a certain research topic in a critical and exhaustive analysis based on updated and complete references. In accordance with (i) there is no explicit page limit for review articles.

Language: English manuscripts must be reviewed by a **native speaker**. **WLN** may offer to act as an agent.

Nomenclature: The correct names of organisms conforming with the **international rules of nomenclature** must be used.

1.1. Plagiarism. Authors must respect the deontological rules related to research activities, especially those referring to plagiarism. One basic rule of quoting any more than five words of an author is default. The journal policy totally disagrees with any form of plagiarism.

1.2. Copyright. It is compulsory that the manuscripts sent to the editorial board are addressed exclusively to this journal. Papers must be original and not proposed for publishing in other journals or previously published (case of self-plagiarism 1.1). The publishing house owns the copyright on the articles. No part of the articles may be reproduced without the prior permission in writing of the publishing house. Any republication of the articles should be authorised by the publishing house (contact by e-mail: Helge.Walentowski@lwf.bayern.de). In the case of previously published articles/parts of articles it is

necessary to provide full bibliographical source and a written acceptance from the author(s) or the publishing house. The authors are entirely responsible for the copyright of this kind of article.

- 1.3. Submission of articles.** In addition to the document (text, tables, figures, etc.) authors are requested to attach a letter in which they present the article and explicitly state that the manuscript was approved by all the authors.
- 1.4. Review process.** When the editorial board receive a manuscript and consider that the topic and format is suitable for this journal, the manuscript is sent to two reviewers qualified in the field to review the scientific content. The peer review process lasts less than one month but it may be longer for review articles depending on the manuscript length. The authors are not informed about the identities of the reviewers. The reviewers make the decision either to publish or reject a manuscript. When an article is accepted, the author will receive a list of modifications required prior to publishing. The following situations might occur:

- A. acceptable in its present form
- B. acceptable after minor revision (correction of formal issues only)
- C. acceptable after major revision (data and analysis are good, but the paper should be reworked)
- D. not acceptable. An entirely new paper based on the reported findings may be resubmitted for a new review
- E. not acceptable

Authors are asked to do the recommended modifications. Any complaint should be expressed in writing. A letter in which the author has considered each modification suggested by the peer reviewers should be attached to the final article. The papers considered unacceptable by peer reviewers will not be published. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors.

2. Article structure

All articles must be elaborated and structured according to the following rules, discordant articles will be rejected. Manuscripts should contain the title, an abstract, 4-6 key words and the body of the article (bibliography, figures and tables included). Title, abstract, key words, table and figure captions and table should be provided in English and German.

- 2.1. The title** should be clear, concise and suggestive. Ambiguous, too long, too general or one-word titles should be avoided. Abbreviations are not accepted. Complete first names and last names of the authors are required.
- 2.2. The abstract** should be analytical and provide sufficient information even to a reader who is neither an expert nor familiar with the field. It should be approximately 200-300 (maximum 400) words comprising the objectives, methods, and main conclusion of the article. Abstracts are frequently databased and indexed and play a key-role in introducing the potential readers to an “in extenso” reading. The 4-6 key words should express the characteristic elements of the article, which are not yet mentioned in the title.
- 2.3. The content** should be structured in accordance with the following criteria.
- 1. Introduction.** It includes the general framework of the approached topic and its stage of development. A distinct paragraph, usually the last of this chapter, should contain the aim of the research presented in the article and the questions to be answered.
 - 2. Materials and methods.** This chapter should present detailed information concerning the place of research, materials and methods used in order to allow the exact replication of the experimental work.

This will facilitate correct interpretation of the results. If the article contains different aspects of research, which have distinct methods and materials, these should be treated separately.

3. Results. It is advisable to present the results of the experiments in charts, tables, photos or graphics. The text should facilitate correct interpretation of charts and figures, but it will not contain a comparative assessment with similar papers (these should be contained in the next chapter, i.e. 'Discussion'.) The 'Results' chapter has to be configured in accordance with the aims of the research.

4. Discussion. The role of this chapter is to reach an accurate conclusion through a comparative analysis of results already published, emphasizing similarities and differences. This chapter is important in the general framework of the study because it shows the author's mastery of the topic, the value of the results and the quality of data interpretation. This chapter also contains references to the data and information presented in the charts, tables, graphics and photos in the previous chapter. Data used in the comparative analysis must indicate the source of the references. The configuration of 'Discussion' chapter is similar to that of the 'Results' chapter.

5. Conclusion. The conclusion should naturally come from the research results and the discussion presented in the study. General assertions, as well as tables, graphics and photos are not allowed in this chapter.

Acknowledgements. This chapter can follow 'Conclusion' chapter, mentioning those people or institutions that have facilitated the research accomplishment. This chapter receives no heading number. **References.**

It is important to note that all the publications quoted in the text should be included in the bibliography and vice versa. The bibliography should not contain publications that cannot be identified in the text and authors should ensure the text references and the bibliographical list correspond. **Appendix.** When a thorough presentation of some research aspects (e.g. statistical methods, an important data set or an explanatory detailed table) is needed, an appendix can be inserted at the end of the article.

Review articles do not follow the above mentioned structure. However, they should include: (i) an introductory part, (ii) a careful and critical presentation of the relevant aspects of the topic approached, and eventually (iii) emphasis of the aspects that are inadequately known and require further study to progress understanding in the phenomenon.

3. Electronic format requirements for accepted articles

Microsoft Word format or its equivalent is preferred. It is recommended to use Times New Roman, size 11 for the body of the text and size 9 for tables, figures, bibliography and abstract. The line spacing between text should come to 1.5 lines, line numbers should be added to the entire document. Figures, tables and line numbers have to be inserted at the end of the document. For optimal publication of the article, figures should be submitted separately as attachments to the Microsoft Word document or as an image (e.g. .tif, .jpg).

Attachments should include the name of the corresponding author (e.g. Smith.doc). Each figure will be numbered in accordance with the body of the text. Photos will be sent in digital format at a resolution of 300 dpi. It is suggested to send black and white graphics and photos provided it does not affect the information.

The length of the article. Generally not limited, but a concise text is highly desirable. **Structure** of chapters. The paper will be structured as follows: 1. Introduction; 2. Materials and Methods; 3. Results; 4. Discussion; 5. Conclusion. Subchapters and paragraphs will be numbered with Arabic figures separated by dots, according to the level of heading (e.g. 1. Chapter; 1.1. Subchapter; 1.1.1. Paragraph). **The titles of subchapters** will be preceded and followed by a blank line paged as follows: 1.1., 1.1.1. The latter numbering is the last accepted. If the paper has an appendix it will be placed at the end of the article and should have a distinct title. **The scientific names** of species will be given in italics, those of plant communities must be double-spaced. The

popular names of plants, animals or micro-organisms will be followed by the scientific names when first used in the text along with the author of denomination (e.g. *Abies alba* Mill., *Luzulo-Fagetum* Meus. 1957). To ensure the quality of the article in terms of stylistics and fluency, **repeated enumerations** should be avoided. Enumerations marked by means of dashes or other graphic signs:

- enumeration 1
- enumeration 2

must be presented as follows: (i) enumeration 1; (ii) enumeration 2. **Abbreviations and acronyms** will be explained when first mentioned in the article. **Proper names** of any kind will be written with Latin characters and diacritical signs corresponding to the original language in which they were written. **Equations** will be written clearly, paying attention to coefficients, exponents and possible confusions: e.g. zero '0', figure and letter 'o', figure '1' and letter 'l'. A consecutive numbering will be used in parentheses on the right side of the text. It is suggested to use Microsoft Word editor for equations or the equivalent software. The units of measurement should be those of the International System. Symbols, Greek or other characters must be defined and clearly explained. Their definition can not vary along the paper. **References will be cited in the text** as follows in captions: (SMITH 1998), (SMITH 1998a, b), (SMITH & WILEY 1998), (SMITH 1998, WILEY 1998), (SMITH 1996, 1997, 1998, WILEY 1998). In the case of multiple references, they will be ordered alphabetically according to the names of the authors when they have the same year of publication, or chronologically, when they have distinct years of publication (WILEY 1975, SMITH 1999). If there are more than three authors only the first one is mentioned and it is followed by 'et al.': e.g. (SMITH et al. 1998). If the author of the study is unknown the term 'Anonymous' will be used for identifying the reference in text. Very large **tables** should be avoided because it is difficult to insert them appropriately. If they are necessary and require more than one page they will be separated, mentioning 'Table X (continuation)' on each page. Any explanatory text will be given as a note below the table. Tables and figures (graphics, images) will be inserted inside the text only where they have been quoted. When the table/figure is explicitly mentioned in text, it will be cited as table 1/figure 1; otherwise, when tables/figures are indirectly mentioned, they should be cited in parentheses (e.g. table 1/figure 1). The title of the table or figure will be written either above or below it, respectively.

References. Examples concerning bibliographical references are given below. The titles of the articles are cited in the language in which they were written.

1. Articles:

Author (in small caps, prename abbreviated), year of publication in brackets: Title of work. Abbreviated title of the Journal featuring volume in bold, issue in brackets and underlined: number of pages.

ASSMANN, T. (1994): Epigäische Coleopteren als Indikatoren für historisch alte Wälder der Norwestdeutschen Tiefebene. *NNA-Ber.* **7** (3): 142-151.

2. Books:

author (in small caps, prename abbreviated), year of publication in brackets: Title of work. Edition (starting from the 2nd edition). Publisher, printing place: number of pages.

ROSENZWEIG, M.L. (1995): *Species diversity in space and time*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge: 446 p.

3. Online publication:

GROSSMANN, M. et al. (2009): Nomination of the „Ancient Beech Forests of Germany“ as extension to the world natural heritage “Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians” (1133). Nomination dossier to the UNESCO for the inscription on the world heritage list.

URL: <http://weltnaturerbe-buchenwaelder.de/fileadmin/media/pdf/> [access 03-09-2012].