

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

FOREWORD

Agrociencia is an open access scientific journal founded and supported by the Colegio de Postgraduados (www.colpos.mx), a teaching and research institution in agricultural sciences based in Texcoco, State of Mexico, Mexico. The objective of this journal is to offer researchers in agricultural sciences and related areas, from Mexico and other countries, a means to publish the results of their research, and is non-profit.

Agrociencia receives manuscripts derived from theoretical or experimental research in the form of scientific article, review article, note or short communication, or essay.

All manuscripts must be original and unpublished and not be under review by another journal. Once assessed for technical and scientific quality, as well as compliance with the editorial standards of the journal, all manuscripts are submitted to a double-blind peer review and technical editing. Research for which progress has only been published in abstract form (in proceedings or newsletters) may be submitted for possible publication in the journal.

Agrociencia publishes topics relevant to 11 sections, related to agricultural and related sciences:

1. Water, Soil, Climate
2. Biotechnology
3. Animal science
4. Food science
5. Wildlife
6. Crop science
7. Agricultural Machinery
8. Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Computing
9. Plant Protection
10. Renewable Natural Resources
11. Socioeconomics

Agrociencia accepts submissions in both Spanish and English, although the final publication is only available in English and in digital format. For submissions received in Spanish, after review, editing, and approval for publication, these will be translated into English by expert translators approved by the journal. Translation fees and payment terms will be agreed upon between the authors and translators, and full payment for the translation must be received to the satisfaction of both parties before the manuscript can be published. Submissions received in English must be reviewed by expert academic proofreaders, for which the corresponding fee must also be covered. Agrociencia only publishes articles in English that have previously passed the review and technical editing processes, and whose authors have duly covered the costs of translation or proofreading services in English.

STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

General guidelines

All manuscripts must be written according to a template, a predesigned format for this purpose (<https://agrocienza-colpos.mx/index.php/agrocienza/issue/view/194>).

No paragraph (including the **ABSTRACT**) should be indented. All pages must be set with words fixed to both margins and every line must end with full words; this is, activating the Word® option “No hyphenation”. Line numbers must be added to every page, and each one must start on Line 1.

For the initial review process, all manuscripts must be sent through the access provided in Agrociencia OJS interface, with a **cover letter** indicating that it is original and has not been sent for evaluation to another journal. It must also provide the complete data and signature of the corresponding author, indicating that co-authors have authorized the version submitted for evaluation (<https://agrocienza-colpos.org/index.php/agrocienza/issue/view/194>). Authors may suggest three potential reviewers and two potential technical editors in order to speed the review and editing processes. These reviewers and editors must be from institutions other than those of the authors, and preferably from other countries different than that of the author. The cover letter must be signed by the corresponding author. Once submitted, no changes regarding the corresponding authors nor the order of coauthors will be accepted. In other stages of the editorial process, communication can be established by email to the following address: agrocienza@colpos.mx. This shall be the only email address for correspondence with the journal. Our OJS interface will generate a registration number for you. You must keep this number throughout the review and editing process of your manuscript.

Structure of the scientific article

Manuscripts registered as scientific articles must have a maximum length of 20 pages, approximately 6200 words, including tables, figures, and references. The font is Palatino Linotype size 10 p. Larger documents may be received only as an exception. The scientific article must contain the following sections, which are shown in the **Template**.

ABSTRACT

The most important aspects of the research should be presented here in a single paragraph with a maximum of 300 words. It should include the justification and importance of the research, the objective and hypothesis, and a brief description of the items (materials), procedures (methods), experimental design and statistical analysis used. The description of the statistical treatment of the data must be clear and concise; details should be added in the **MATERIALS AND METHODS** section. Fifty percent of the **ABSTRACT** (150 out of 300 words) must be results without argumentation or discussion. The most relevant conclusion should be added, without recommendations. The **ABSTRACT** should not include citations, but the scientific names of the species under investigation should be added. Abbreviations and acronyms should not be written in excess, and if a small number of them are used in this section, the full name of the concept should first be given and then the abbreviation or acronym placed in parentheses. The information in the **ABSTRACT** must be consistent with that presented in the other sections of the article, and in particular, with that contained in the **CONCLUSIONS**. The **ABSTRACT** must be written only in the original language of the manuscript because its translation will be done at the end of the editing process, should it be approved for publication.

Keywords: At the end of the **ABSTRACT**, a maximum of six keywords should be written, in simple or compound terms separated by commas. The scientific names of species may be used here, along with their describer (Systematics authority). Words already included in the main title of the article should not be used as keywords.

INTRODUCTION

This section must clearly indicate the importance of the topic, the justification for the research and the background available in different valid literary sources, which are relevant to support the hypothesis and the stated objective. In other words, the *why* and the *what-for* of the research must be specified, as well as the information published in this regard. A specific literature review section is not required since the relevant background should be presented in the **INTRODUCTION**. The background should be based on relevant scientific literature and other reliable and recent valid sources, so that the current state of knowledge on the subject is stated. Most of it (75–80 %) should be from the most recent nine years to the date of submission for the manuscript. Citations are only accepted for articles published in journals subject to strict review and for books published by internationally recognized publishers. Dissertation documents (theses, regardless any academic degree), conference summaries or electronic pages without scientific support are not accepted for citations. The cited background must be written consistently and ordered in accordance with the sequence in the research reported. For general concepts, an excess of references should be avoided. The use of citations in this section must be precise and specific. For scientific articles, **35** references are accepted, for essays and documentary reviews **up to 45** references, and for scientific notes **no more than 20**.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to answer the questions: Where? When? And how was the research developed?, the author must describe the materials, procedures, measurements, and units of the variables used. In addition, this section should include the following: the experimental design; the treatments, replications per treatment, and experimental units; the statistical analysis of the data and probability of error. For studies related to social science topics, the design and analysis of the data must be performed with non-parametric statistics.

Authors must provide sufficient information on each variable so that any researcher can replicate the study. The information in this section must be consistent with the stated objectives. The models and brands of the instruments used must be noted, including the city and country of manufacture. In the case of reagents, the brand and incorporated company (*e.g.* Sigma, Merck, etc.) must be cited, as well as the city and country of origin or manufacture. Laboratory methods should also be described in enough detail to allow for replication; if they are common and were not modified for the research, it will suffice to indicate the respective reference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section must be integrated (*i.e.*, results and discussion must not be separated sections), so that the appropriate answers are presented to the questions: what happened and why? What is the meaning of the results? And what relationship do results have with the hypothesis? For this, the facts derived from the application of the methodology must be presented and ordered in a logical and objective manner, with tables and figures (photographs, graphs, or drawings). The information and the discussion of the results must be presented in a clear and understandable way, without constantly repeating the data presented in the tables and figures.

It is not enough to merely present results, but rather that it is also necessary to interpret them based on clear, objective, and impartial reasoning. Precise explanations must be provided based on relevant and current information in the corresponding area of science. In addition, the significance of the results should be discussed according to their similarity or contrast with those published by other authors. Causes of such differences should be discussed, and options for future studies proposed.

In this section, authors must also show whether their results validate their hypothesis. Consequently, it is important that the discussion be based on the results and that there is consistency with the objectives and methods described in the preceding sections. Authors should not refer to variables not measured in the research, and variables should not be confused with parameters (this confusion often occurs). Speculative explanations are valid only when supported by solid bibliographic references or through formal, objective, solid and clear reasoning, which should be written briefly.

Inferences about numerical differences that are not supported by tests and statistical procedures in current use must be omitted. Results derived from Duncan's test for multiple comparisons of means based on the classical least significant difference (LSD) are not accepted, nor are other obsolete tests. When using standard contemporary tests (such as Tukey or Fisher) in statistical software packages (such as SAS or R) that allow precise control of the variables, conditions, and assumptions, it is enough to indicate the statistic and the probability of error admitted ($p \leq 0.05$). In the case of correlation, regression and other variants of the general linear model, the values of the statistics and their respective probabilities must be indicated ($p \leq 0.01$, $p \leq 0.05$). Note that the p for probability is written in *italics* and separated from the symbol \leq (less or equal to). For results that show statistical difference, it is no longer necessary to use adjectives such as "significant" or "highly significant."

CONCLUSIONS

These statements indicate, in a categorical, precise, and brief manner, the specific contributions to knowledge provided by the results, without repeating them. No conclusion should be argued or based on assumptions. Conclusions should not be numbered, nor should abbreviations or acronyms be used in them (such as, DM, RFLP, PV, etc.) but complete terms, so that the reader does not have to search back in the text to understand them. Suggestions, speculative interpretations, or proposals for future studies are not allowed in this section. The conclusions must be consistent with and complement the information presented in the **ABSTRACT**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Only people or institutions that financed, advised, or assisted the research may be acknowledged. The names must be written in full. Regarding the people, the institution to which they are affiliated (if applicable) must also be indicated, as well as the form and extent to which they collaborated.

REFERENCES

It contains a list, in alphabetical and chronological order, of all the references cited in the text. References must have complete information, including the total number or interval of pages consulted; as well as the doi or the specific URL (including the date of retrieval as Retrieved: Month year). It is important to make sure not to omit nor change: the year of publication, the surnames (this is, last names or family names), names (first/second names or initials) of the authors or journals, or the titles of the articles or books consulted. For scientific articles, **35** references are accepted, for scientific essays and documental reviews **up to 45** references, and for scientific notes **no more than 20**.

Poor or imprecise integration of this section substantially increases the review and editing time of the manuscript. In addition, it can affect the citation index of an author or a journal; therefore, at the end of this **Guide** and in the **Template**, more specific instructions are given about this section and examples provided. It is very important that, during the writing of the manuscript, the creation of an automatic list of references in Word® is not activated because this prevents each reference from being treated, reviewed, and commented individually. In cases where errors are detected, the reviewers, reviewers or editors must annotate, correct, and comment on each particular reference.

STRUCTURE OF THE SCIENTIFIC NOTE

The following manuscripts are accepted as scientific notes:

1. Preliminary findings and contributions, based on recent research results that may still require verification but, in the opinion of the reviewers and editors, are sufficiently novel.
2. Results that, in the opinion of the reviewers or editors, are worth being published as notes.
3. Results of modifications or improvements of any experimental method or technique, statistical analysis, and piece of equipment or instrument used in the field, greenhouse, or laboratory.

A scientific note contains the same sections as those of a scientific article, but its maximum allowable extent is 3000 words in the original language, including tables, figures, and **REFERENCES (no more than 20)**.

STRUCTURE OF THE REVIEW ARTICLE AND THE SCIENTIFIC ESSAY

Review articles and scientific essays are manuscripts that provide a critical, analytical, and documented approach to the current state of knowledge on a topic. They must contain novel, unpublished analyses and clearly differentiated personal interpretations, in a way that highlights the quality of the analysed subjects or studies.

Review articles and scientific essays that do not provide original knowledge or interpretations will not be published in Agrocienca. Every essay or review submitted to the editorial process in Agrocienca must have a solid and updated **REFERENCES** section, but without exceeding **45** references. Most of the structural components (or sections) of this type of contribution are open to the discretion of the authors. However, it is essential that it contains the following sections: **ABSTRACT**, **INTRODUCTION**, **CONCLUSIONS** and **REFERENCES**, each with a structure similar to that indicated for scientific articles. The maximum total length is 7000 words.

FORMAT, LAYOUT, AND STYLES OF WRITING FOR MANUSCRIPTS

The following layout and styles are required for the four types of contributions that Agrocienca publishes: scientific articles, review articles, notes and essays. The following paragraphs present the formats and styles required for each heading and section, as an example.

MAIN TITLE

The main title must be brief and clear. Its purpose is to summarize the content of the contribution in 20 words or less; it must be centre-aligned on the page, with all words written in capital letters, and without a final period. It must not contain callouts, asterisks, or indexes.

Scientific names may be included for rare species or when essential and must always be written in *italics*, with the first letter of the genus in uppercase. The describer (Systematics authority) should be indicated in normal type. No abbreviations or symbols can be used in the main title.

Authors

The names of the authors must appear in full (without initials or nicknames). However, whether their names will appear abbreviated in the final version shall be determined in mutual agreement with them. The list of authors should begin with their first names, followed by their surnames; in the case of two-word surnames, they must be indicated with a hyphen.

Each author's complete name must be separated by comma, with no punctuation sign at the end of the last co-author's complete name. Author information must be centred, immediately below the main title, without academic degrees or job titles, with uppercases used only in first letters and initials. Surnames (family name) should appear in **bold** type.

In the end of each name, a superscript must be placed, progressively. For each superscript, the name of the institution to which the author is affiliated, and the official postal address must be indicated. The affiliation institution should only refer to the first level (university or research centre) and second level (faculty or research department), without resorting to the use of initials or acronyms. It is advisable to use Scielo's wayta tool (<http://wayta.scielo.org/>) to prevent misspelling of institution names. In all cases, the institutional affiliation's location should be included, naming the corresponding town, city, or municipality, as well as the state and country. Avoid abbreviations of cities, states, or countries. The Postal Code must be written at the end, after the country.

Examples:

¹Autonomous University of Chihuahua. Faculty of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences. Delicias-Rosales Highway km 2.5, Campus Delicias, Ciudad Delicias, Chihuahua, Mexico. C. P. 33000.

²University of Buenos Aires. Agronomy Faculty. San Martin Avenue No. 4453, Buenos Aires, Argentina. C. P. C1417DSE.

These indications should be adapted to the official addresses of institutions in other countries, as any case require it. If all authors work at the same institution, a single index (under each name) will suffice. In all cases, the author with whom all correspondence related to the manuscript will be maintained must be identified, since this is the author responsible for the publication. For this corresponding author an asterisk (*) must be added to the right of his/her numerical superscript. Only this author's email address should be included. As exemplified in the **Template**, the corresponding author must be written at the end of the list of affiliated institutions. If during the evaluation and edition processes the corresponding author modifies the contact information previously provided, he/she must make the respective changes before the translation occurs; in the version authorized by the Editor-in-Chief.

The scientific names of the species under research should be included as keywords, along with their corresponding describer (Systematics authority). Therefore, authors should consider this criterion when choosing the other relevant terms that can be used to complement a maximum of three scientific names. Keywords should be placed below the last line of the **ABSTRACT**, with justified alignment (adjusted to both page margins).

Keywords: these are the descriptors that allow the contribution to be classified in scientific literature indices. No more than six simple or compound terms can be used, with an uppercase initial only used for proper nouns. Words are separated by a comma, with a period placed only at the end of the last keyword. Alphabetical order is not required, but rather order of importance.

HEADINGS

These elements comprise a hierarchy with various orders and their position in the text indicates their level within that hierarchy. The heading indicates each section and subsection of the contribution. All should be written in **bold** type.

FIRST (1st) ORDER

The only one of this type is the **MAIN TITLE** of the manuscript which must be written in capital letters and centred, without a final period. The Template (<https://agrocienza-colpos.org/index.php/agrocienza/issue/view/194>) is edited for this heading, just adhere to it by overwriting the template and do not change it.

SECOND (2nd) ORDER

The different sections of the manuscripts submitted to evaluation correspond to this type: **ABSTRACT, INTRODUCTION**, etc.; the entire heading should be capitalized and centred, with no period at the end. All the important sections in a scientific essay or review belong to this heading-order. The text starts on the line below this heading.

Third (3rd) order

These correspond to subsections and will be written in lower case, except for the heading's first letter and proper names, centred and without period. The text continues on the line immediately below.

Fourth (4th) order

This heading is written in lower case, except for the first letter and proper names; it starts at the left margin of the page, without indentation and without a period at the end. The text continues at the line under that heading.

Fifth (5th) order. Authors should avoid them. If necessary, they must be written in the same way as those of the fourth order, but ending with a period, with the text immediately following.

Citations of references in the text

To incorporate citations, Harvard style should be used in all contributions: (Authors, year). The way to apply the system depends on the wording of the respective paragraphs.

Paragraphs, phrases, or sentences that include the cited authors

- 1) If there is only one author, his/her first surname is given in full, a comma, followed by the year of publication in parentheses, examples: "... it is essential to improve the systems (Álvarez-Icaza, 2013); ...forests in Mexico are threatened (López, 2005; Maas, 2010)".
- 2) In the case of two authors, the first surname of each one is separated by the conjunction "and," with the year immediately afterwards; example: Maffei and Noss (2012)
- 3) If the citation corresponds to three or more authors, the surname of the first author is written and then the Latin phrase *et al.*, the abbreviation of *et alii* which means "and collaborators,"

being an abbreviation *et al.* always must have a period at the end, before the comma or parenthesis, followed by the year in parentheses; examples: "...according to Peña-Mondragón *et al.* (2014); also found that in other species of the genus (Sosa *et al.*, 2019)". It should be noticed that the phrase *et al.* must always be written in *italics*.

Cases where a citation is placed at the end of a sentence, phrase, or paragraph

Surnames are placed according to the number of authors of each publication (as indicated in the previous section) with the authors and the year separated by commas, and each citation by a semicolon; all this is placed in a general parenthesis. Some examples of author names were used in the previous section to cite references in the text (Sosa *et al.*, 2009; Prugh and Sinclaer, 2014). Such a sequence must be ordered chronologically. Authors are asked to use no more than two citations to support an idea, concept, or argument.

If the cited author published more than one article in the same year, the citations must be differentiated with the letters a, b, c, etc., typed immediately after the year of publication. These citations should appear in alphabetical order of their letters in the **REFERENCES** section.

Dissertation (theses), personal communications, workshop papers, conference or summit summaries or internet pages that do not have scientific or academic support are not accepted as valid references. Exceptionally and with a solid justification, technical reports or updated databases may be used. In all cases, the reviewers and editors will decide if the reference in question is indispensable.

Citations from newspapers and official national or international media are only accepted in the case of scientific essays, reviews, or notes with the name of the newspaper as author and then the year [example: Millennium (2017)]. Textual citations may be used only by exception; they must be written between quotation marks, with the author and year of publication indicated at the end. In these cases, also the Editor-in-Chief will decide if this reference is essential.

In citations where a widely-recognized institution, such as the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), an acronym may be used in the text, as it is easily identifiable. However, in the **REFERENCES** section they must be indicated as follows: UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). 2013. ... etc.; or FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2016. ... etc.

Authors must cite only original sources and not refer to references cited by third parties. These indirect (third-party) assessments, interpretation, and judgments about the concepts on which they are based may differ from the conclusions and values consigned in the primary original reference.

When referring to original methods of traditional application, describer authorities in biological identification keys for systematics, or classical numerical methods, the old references cited in the text must be included in full in the **REFERENCES** section only in these cases without exceptions.

Some examples of the most common cases are included at the end of this Guide and authors are requested to review them in detail. As already indicated, the **REFERENCES** section should have 25-30 references in scientific articles, up to 35 in scientific essays and reviews, and a maximum of 20 references in scientific notes.

Tables

Tables (a.k.a. “boxes”, but they must not be indicated as such) are used to complement the text, as a significant space saver. They should be simple, concise, and clear. Each table must present data in an organized way, in order to facilitate comparisons, show classifications, observe some relationships, and save space along the text. Each table must be self-explanatory; content must not be repeated in figures or in the text. Authors should not write “**Table 1** shows...”, but replace it with, for example, “The biomass/fresh weight ratio was... (**Table 1**)” at the end of the sentence(s) describing the most relevant and significant results which one can identify in that table.

Tables should be numbered and mentioned in the text progressively (example, **Table 1**; **Table 2**, etc.). For their titles, author should follow this style: **Table 1**. Title of the table, which must be written at the top of the table without being part of it. That is, the title of the table must not be included in the cell at top of table, but in a separate paragraph of text, with lowercase letters, except the initial of the first word and the initials of proper names. The title of a table must end with a period.

Tables must be placed immediately after the paragraph where they are mentioned for the first time, as long as they fit completely. If they do not fit on the same page where they are mentioned, they must be placed at the beginning of the next page, in which the text should be resumed if there is still space after the table, to facilitate reading and analysis of the information. Tables must not be placed after the **CONCLUSIONS** or after the end of the **REFERENCES**. Tables that occupy more than one page in their final version will be accepted only by exception. In manuscripts originally written in Spanish, the word “Tabla” must not be used to refer to a table; as well as “Box” must not be used instead of “Table” in English originals.

Each concept or variable (where appropriate) must be identified by name, and in the units authorized by the International System (**BIP**; <https://www.bipm.org/en/about-us/>). Large figures should be reduced to only significant digits, according to the level of precision with which the variable was measured. The level of precision per variable is indicated in **MATERIALS AND METHODS**, but the presentation standard in the tables is a maximum of three decimal places.

Each table should only show three full horizontal lines (or complete-wide, across the entire extent of the table); any other horizontal line must be a segment (a shorter line) that covers only part of the columns or concepts. The first two full horizontal lines (top and bottom) are placed bordering the heading-row; and the third (the ending) should be drawn at the end of the table. If there are hierarchical concepts in the heading-row, a shorter horizontal line (segment) should be used in them. After the last full horizontal line, footnotes can be placed to give information complementary to the title of the table, the heading-row, or data. In these notes the symbols †, ¶, §, ¶, ⌘, ††, ¶¶, §§, ¶¶, ⌘⌘, ††... must be used, in order of precedence and in superscript type.

A sample table is provided in this guide as an example (Table 1). It should be noted that “table(s)” was written to refer to them as a generic term; but when they are specified, “Table” should be written (with an uppercase initial) followed by the corresponding number (example, Table 1, Table 2, etc.) It should also be noted that all information in a table is aligned in columns, alignment according to content, avoiding tabs and spaces. The proper alignment of values including fractions must follow the decimal system; this is, fractions must be preceded by a point (the decimal point). Data written as a table in Word® must allow alignment changes, in order to be revised, edited, or corrected, and further marked

as a digital object. Tables copied from Excel® must not be copied as images or as Excel® objects. That is, they must not be linked to the spreadsheet in which they were created; otherwise, they must be copied and pasted as tables, to allow their alignment, formatting and marking.

Table 1. Neutral detergent fibre and biogas in vitro† of ferments obtained from maize stover, and mulatto grass inoculated with the MR or P15 strains of *Pleurotus ostreatus* at 15 and 30 days of solid fermentation.

Substrate	Strain	Time	NDF	Biogas 72
Mulatto grass	MR	15 d	70.92 abc	8.73 cd
		30 d	67.69 d	16.12 abc
	P15	15 d	72.18 a	9.52 cd
		30 d	68.9 cd	21.52 a
Maize stover	MR	15 d	71.77 ab	8.01 d
		30 d	69.57 bcd	18.61 ab
	P15	15 d	69.78 abcd	11.01 cd
		30 d	62.68 e	12.89 bcd
SEM			0.61	1.07

†Variables analysed displayed the substrate × strain × time interaction ($p \leq 0.05$). a,b,c Mean values per column with a different letter are different ($p \leq 0.05$). NDF: neutral detergent fibre; Biogas 72: mL g⁻¹ DM from 48 to 72 h; DM: dry matter; SEM: standard error of the mean. Note that the “*p*” for probability is written in *italics*.

A balance between the quantity of tables and text paragraphs is essential, for not to fill the manuscript with an excess of small tables. However, a table with too many columns or rows is also undesirable, especially if there is tabulated information that is not used in the discussion. All the variables included in the tables and figures should be described in the **MATERIALS AND METHODS** section, as well as interpreted and discussed in the **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** section. Four tables are the maximum recommended to be included in the manuscript. An important recommendation is to include the tables “wrapped in line with the text”, preventing tables to be treated as “floating objects”. That alignment options in the menu of Word® (or any other text processor) should be used. When tables are drawn as floating objects, they tend to move over the text, changing their position when the document is edited or corrected, leaving table titles and footnotes aside and leading to confusion.

Figures

The figures correspond to the graphs, diagrams, illustrations, and photographs. The information they contain should not be duplicated in tables or in the text in the **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION** section. Photographs must have adequate contrast for handling and be sent in positive, original form (black and white, or color), with the number of the figure clearly indicated, as well as their corresponding place in the text. The titles of the images must be in separate paragraphs (do not include the title within the image). Images must have no less than 300 and no more than 600 dpi (dots per inch). It is preferable that the images be postcard size (10 x 7.5 cm) clearly indicating what the authors want to show. For images that may show confusing spatial orientation, that orientation should be indicated on a separate page in Word®.

Figures must be specified in the text and their titles must be written at the bottom of the figure, as **Figure 1**, **Figure 2**, ..., etc. Four figures are the maximum allowed for the entire manuscript. An

important recommendation is to include figures “wrapped in line with the text”, preventing them to be included as “floating objects”. That alignment options in the menu of Word® (or any other text processor) should be used. When figures are left floating, they become isolated from their captions, and they change the layout of the manuscript paragraphs when corrections or notes are added.

Digital resolution of images comes at a cost in storage space (bytes) and that the affordable capacity for bulk digital servers seldom allows for the maximum sharpness that authors may desire in their original images. Therefore, .jpg or .tiff images must be of sufficient resolution so that they can be reduced and retain their quality. The minimum font or numeric character size is 3 mm, at the publication scale (100 % zoom, whole page).

A figure should highlight the content and not the layout. Consequently, the thickness of the axes should be less than that of the lines joining a series of points. Experimental points should be visibly marked; circles, crosses, or asterisks should not be used as points for data series. To indicate the dimensions of the axes, appropriate scales that highlight what the authors want to show should be selected; the legends of each axis should be placed as indicated in the example of **Figure 1**. Consequently, figures will only be accepted as they are in the manuscript if they meet the indicated requirements. As indicated, the formats to send the figures and graphs are: .jpg and .tiff and the graphs must not keep links with Excel, or with the program in which they were created. It is important to emphasize that the font in graphs and figures must be Palatino Linotype size 10 p, as in the text. Authors can set this option in the graphics creation source program before saving graphics as image in .jpg or .tiff format; figures should also be inserted in their corresponding place in the manuscript, after being mentioned.

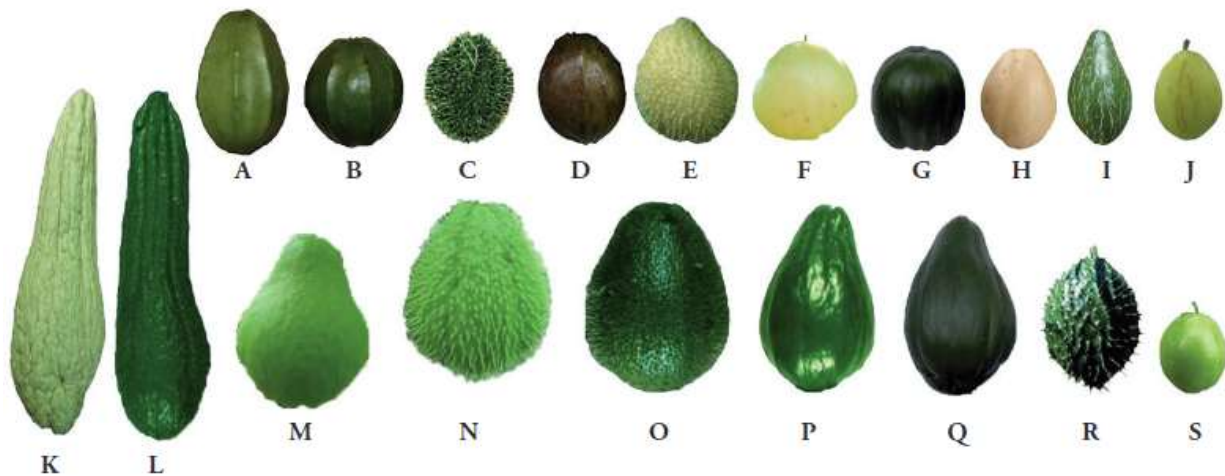


Figure 1. Representative phenotypes of fruits of different chayote (*Sechium* spp.) genotypes. A: *Sechium compositum* type “Mal Paso”; B: *S. compositum* type “Talisman”; C: *S. edule* wild type; D: *S. chinantlense*; E: *S. edule albus spinosum*; F: *S. edule albus levis*; G: *S. edule nigrum levis*; H: *S. edule albus dulcis*; I: *S. edule nigrum conus*; J: *S. edule albus minor*; K, L: *S. edule nigrum maxima*; M: *S. edule virens levis*; N, O: *S. edule nigrum spinosum*; P, Q: *S. edule nigrum xalapensis*; A: *S. edule amarus sylvestris*; S: *S. edule nigrum minor*. In figures, when applicable (graphs), the “*p*” for probability must be written in *italics*.

Magnification and scale of photographs and photomicrographs should be indicated in the title of figure. In the case of photographs of macroscopic structures (greater than the dimension of the page)

and microscopic structures, a bar indicating the reference scale must be included. If a figure includes subfigures or a graph, sub-graphs, the label given to them must be written in uppercase [*i.e.*, A, B, etc.], without parenthesis. The position of this label should be at the top to the right at each subfigure or subgraph.

As well as for tables, all figures must have callings and be included in the text in a progressive order. The graphics, like the images, must have the same specifications, in terms of resolution, font type, size, and letters within the figure that identify subfigures. The axes of the graphs go with external graduation marks and only those of the main type should be there, and not the secondary ones. Avoid sending image-type graphics that look pixelated.

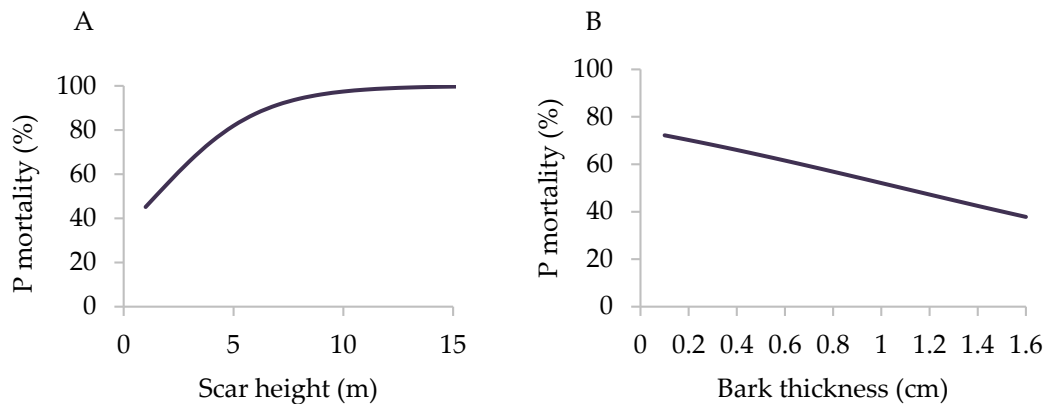


Figure 2. Effect of dasometric variables on the mortality probability of *Casuarina equisetifolia*. A: Scar height, B: Bark thickness.

Take into consideration that tables and figures should be designed to be self-explanatory, allowing readers to understand the presented information without relying heavily on the accompanying text, thus facilitating comprehension and engagement.

Symbols and units

The units for variables, rates, and parameters must be written as authorized and indicated by the International System for units (BIPM; <https://www.bipm.org/en/about-us/>). Equivalences in the symbols of any other system can only be placed in parentheses in manuscripts whose original language is English, and only the first time a unit is used; example: Pa (lb in⁻²). It is important to type the SI-BIPM units for rates in algebra style, divisors are then expressed as negative exponents; the slash (/) must not be used to express divisions. Also, in manuscripts originally written in English, USD is the preferred unit for currency conversions, followed by the equivalent in Mexican pesos (MXN \$) in parentheses.

In a data series with the same measurement unit, values must be used followed by the unit (without period or initial letter in uppercase); for example: 2, 8 and 16 mg L⁻¹; 16, 20 and 33 %; 3400, 1200 and 400 kg; 4 and 9 months. On the other hand, if there is only one value, and that number is less than 10, it must be written in letter (for example, six varieties, four replications, eight environments), but 16 trees, 126 wells, etc. However, if a one-digit figure accompanies a unit of the International System (BIPM), it must be expressed as number (2 µg g⁻¹, 6 g, 5 L). Authors should separate with one space

the numbers from their units of measure, or percentages. Paragraphs and sentences must not start with a numerical value (example, 15 plots...). The wording must be changed, or the quantity must be written with letters (“fifteen plots...”) in order to be able to be placed at the beginning of a paragraph or sentence.

Before submitting the manuscript, it should be thoroughly revised to ensure that the symbols of the measurement units and derived units (multiples or submultiples in the SI). As the International System (SI) indicates, they must not be pluralized: hectares is just ha; meters, m; litres, L; grams, g; kilograms, kg; kilometres, km; Megagrams, Mg. Author should notice that the Megagram is the unit that the International System authorizes for tons. The values and their units must always be separated by a blank space [*i.e.*, 2 µg g⁻¹, 6 g, 5 L, $p \leq 0.05$, pp: 25–30; 25, 60, 90 %].

Formulas, functions, and equations (in texts, tables and figures)

Indexes and subscripts should be well placed and legible. Special care must be taken to clearly differentiate the numbers 0 and 1 from the letters O and I. The minimum acceptable size for a character within a formula or equation is 2 mm at 100 %-page scale.

Greek letters, as well as symbols, must be explained immediately after their first use, except those of the universal domain. To express fractions, the linear form must be used, with negative exponents for the denominators (inverse factors); example: g cm⁻², kg ha⁻¹. Avoid slashes (/) for this purpose.

The equations must be numbered consecutively in parentheses, on the right side, when there are more than one. Only those explicitly referred to in the text can be numbered.

The use of fractional powers ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$) is recommended instead of square roots, cubes, etc. Powers of “e” are best expressed as “exp” (abbreviation of the exponential function).

In chemical formulas, the charge of ions should be expressed as follows: Ca²⁺ instead of Ca⁺⁺; and CO₃²⁻ instead of CO₃⁻⁻, for which the Microsoft® Equation Editor is used.

In isotope writing, the mass number must be indicated at the top of the left side of the symbol as a superscript; example: ¹⁴C, ⁶⁰Co, etc.

Nomenclature

Authors must abide by the rules of biological nomenclature indicated in: the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN; <https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php>), the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN; <https://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-code-online/>), the International Code of Nomenclature of Prokaryotes (ICNP; <http://www.the-icsp.org/>), and the International Code of Virus Classification and Nomenclature (ICVCN; <https://talk.ictvonline.org/information/w/ictv-information/383/ictv-code>), and other international codes in force in the case of microbiological and biochemical organisms. The collections and harvests must be identified with the codes of the corresponding accessions and any unit, symbol or identification required by the corresponding authority (institution or entity responsible of the collection).

Starting with the **INTRODUCTION** section, all living beings (bacteria, fungi, plants, insects, birds, etc.) should be identified by their scientific name the first time they are cited, with the exception of some common domestic animals. These names must have already been cited in the **ABSTRACT**.

Agrochemicals, active ingredients, and other compounds must be identified by name in accordance with international nomenclature. The names of the enzymes must be accompanied by the nomenclature of the Enzyme Commission (letters EC followed by a four-digit numerical code separated by periods). For chemical nomenclature, the guidelines of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and the recommendations of the IUPAC-IUB Combined Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature should be followed.

REFERENCES

This section should include a list of all the citations mentioned in the text, in alphabetical order according to the first letters of the last name of the main author. Here there are some rules in order to integrate this section:

- 1) References must be included in their original language, beginning with the surname(s) of the first author and the capital initials of his/her given name, without commas or periods between them; a comma must be placed to separate the first author from the second.
- 2) Next should be placed, the last name or surnames of the second author followed by his/her initials without a comma among them but at the end of that second co-author, and so onwards up to the end of co-authors.
- 3) In all cases, the reference list can only include the first ten authors, and from the eleventh author onwards, the expression *et al.* (in *italics*) must be used, followed by a period and the year of publishing.
 - a. In Spanish and English there are legally-recognized two-word surnames; this is, two surnames joined by a hyphen; only if this is the case should this form be used. Examples: Larqué-Saavedra A; Smith-Jones W.
 - b. It is common for English authors to use two proper names and a surname. Example: Ernest Andrew Smith, who would be cited as Smith EA. Portuguese and Brazilians place the maternal surname first, and this is the one that should be cited. For other nationalities, the appropriate guides should be consulted, such as those of the Council of Biological Editors or the IICA Standards.
- 4) References in which the first author is the sole author should be listed first, followed by those in which he/she was the main author. When the first author or authors are the same in several consulted works, they must be ordered alphabetically based on the surname of the first non-common author.
- 5) When all the authors are common to several articles, those references must be ordered chronologically; if the year of publication is the same for several citations, they shall be differentiated with the letters a, b, c, etc. In the **REFERENCES** section, they must be ordered sequentially based on these letters.

- 6) Each co-author, editor, or compiler of a reference, as well as the components of the location (city), state (territory), country of publishing, whether it is an article, book, database, etc., are separated by a comma. The order of those components in the preferred case (an article in an international or national journal) is as follows:

In the case of Articles, the following must be indicated, in order: Author(s), year of publication, title of the article, full name of the journal, volume (number) and pages. The page range is separated from the volume number by a colon and a space, while pages are separated by an **en-dash** (<https://www.punctuationmatters.com/en-dash-em-dash-hyphen/>) The name of the journals in **REFERENCES** must be written in full (without abbreviations); after that name and before indicating volume and number no punctuation sign must be added. If there is a doi available, the address must be written complete, always including the domain <https://doi.org/etc>. Example:

Santos-Vijande ML, González-Busto C, Mújica B, López-Fernández D. 2008. Corporate social responsibility in SMEs: A study in Asturian social economy companies. *Journal of Social Development* 63 (249): 31–61. <https://doi.org/10.32418/jsd.2008.249.2072>

In books and booklets, the order is as follows: author(s), year, title, name of translator or editor (if any), edition number (only if it is not the first one), name of publisher or institution, and where the volume was printed, including location (city and country). In the case of the United States, it is important to include the abbreviated name of the state where the publisher is based (<https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/state-abbreviations.htm>), followed by the total number of pages in the volume. At the end, and if available, the doi or URL must be included, in the case of digital resources.

When the cited reference is part of a publication whose chapters were written by different authors, such as international proceedings and summary reports or book chapters, the bibliographic citation should be structured as follows: Author(s), year, and title of the article or chapter. Next, write the word *In* and immediately the surname(s) and initials of the editor(s) or compiler(s), period, parentheses (indicating if it is editor or compiler), comma, and then the name of the book. In either of the aforementioned cases, the corresponding indication is given between parentheses – that is, (ed.), (eds.), or (compl.), (compls.) – as appropriate, with a semi-colon typed after the parentheses. Then, the name of the publishing company is written, followed by the locality of publication (city, state, country) and the page range of the chapter. Likewise, in the case of the United States, it is important to include the abbreviated name of the state where the publisher is based (<https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/state-abbreviations.htm>). At the end, and if available, the doi or URL must be included, in the case of digital resources.

Uppercase initials should not be used for the titles of articles, technical brochures, or book chapters. They can only be used for subjects in titles of books (capitalize-each-word), proper names or after a period, according to punctuation signs.

- 7) Uppercase letters are used at the beginning of each word in the titles of books or the names of international meetings with world recognition. Only in those cases may references from Proceedings be accepted. However, the article published *in extenso* is preferable.

Here are several examples that cover most cases (most references are fictitious):

- Acosta VM. 2000. El cultivo del maíz en Chiapas. *Agricultura Técnica en México* 40 (2): 116–121.
- Aréchiga DB. 2014. Respuesta del chayote a riegos continuos. *Agrociencia* 48 (4): 183–189. <https://doi.org/10.47163/agrociencia.v48i2.2406>
- Arizmendi SC, Cabrera PJ, Alarcón LA. 2021a. Fertilización nitrogenada en pino. *Madera y Bosques* 24 (3): 85–92. <https://doi.org/10.21829/myb.2021.2123170>
- Arizmendi SC, Cabrera PJ, Alarcón LA. 2021b. Adaptabilidad del eucalipto a suelos calcáreos y sequía. *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Forestales* 212 (5): 1156–1175. <https://doi.org/10.1002/sl1483-010-0212-z>
- Bojórquez-Quintal E, Escalante-Magaña C, Echevarría-Machado I, Martínez-Estévez M. 2017. Aluminum, a friend or foe of higher plants in acid soils. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 8: 1767. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2017.01767>
- Davis RH, Moore JC, Smith BM. 2018. Statistical multivariate methods with agronomic applications. *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 113 (523): 213–217. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01621459.2018.1130213>
- Dirzo R. 2014. Ecology of CO₂ tolerant species in humid tropics plant communities in Mexico. *Restoration Ecology* 95 (2014): 456–462. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec.15233>
- Espinosa-Fernández C. 2012. Farmers Behavior Analysis after 18 Years of Free-market Politics. BM-LAEC. San Francisco, CA, USA. <https://www.casadelibrosabiertos.uam.mx/contenido/contenido/Libroelectronico/Ecological-economics-social-studies.pdf> (Retrieved: November 2020).
- FAO (Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura). 2016. Mejores Prácticas para la Construcción de Caminos de Aprovechamiento. Serie Manuales para el Desarrollo Sustentable No.18. UN-NDP. Génova, Italia. <https://www.fao.org/3/i8864es/I8684ES.pdf> (Retrieved: October 2021).
- Milenio. 2017. La crisis climática y el papel de la investigación agropecuaria moderna. 25/09/2017. <https://www.milenio.com/politica/campo/crisis-climatica-papel-investigacion-agropecuaria-moderna> (Retrieved: July 2018).
- Nantock B. 2018. Significance of chromosome constitutions in tracing the origin of *Physalis* races in the Americas. In Walden DB. (ed.), *Agriculture, Breeding and Genetics*. John Wiley: New York, NY, USA, pp: 359–384. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/book/9781119468677> (Retrieved: July 2020).
- Perry JP Jr. 1991. The pines of Mexico and Central America. Timber Press: Portland, OR, USA. 291 p.
- Rubio GZ. 2016. El sorgo en Chihuahua. In Vázquez RA, Sánchez MJA. (compls.), *Mejora Agrícola: Experiencias de 30 años de Investigación Fitotécnica*. Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. Monterrey, Mexico, pp: 87–98. <https://doi.org/10.21640/ns.v11i28.2868>
- Trejo-Téllez LI, García-Jiménez A, Escobar-Sepúlveda HF, Ramírez-Olvera SM, Bello-Bello JJ, Gómez-Merino FC. 2020. Silicon induces hormetic dose-response effects on growth and concentrations of chlorophylls, amino acids and sugars in pepper plants during the early developmental stage. *PeerJ* 8: e9224. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.9224>
- UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). 2015. Manual de disposiciones y procedimientos para el sistema incorporado de la UNAM. UNAM-Dirección General de Incorporación y Revalidación de Estudios: Ciudad Universitaria, Ciudad de México. <https://www.dgire.unam.mx/webdgire/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ManualdeDisposiciones-01junio2016.pdf> (Retrieved: June, 2023).