

Instruction for authors

Submission process.....	2
Publication costs and payment.....	2
Submission checklist.....	2
Manuscript details.....	2
Types of Publications.....	2
Accepted File Formats.....	3
Cover Letter.....	3
Manuscript Preparation.....	3
Graphic Summary.....	3
Authorship and authors' affiliations and changes of authors' list.....	3
Manuscript format.....	4
Abbreviations and other details.....	4
Figures, Schemes and Tables.....	4
Supplementary Materials.....	5
Further Editorial details.....	5
Data guidelines.....	5
Research and Publication Ethics.....	5
Plagiarism.....	6
Citation Policy.....	6
Editorial Independence and conflict of interest.....	6
Editorial Procedures and Peer Review.....	7
Declaration required.....	7

Submission process

To submit your manuscript, please fill in the submission format available at <https://jecojournal.it/>.

Authors are encouraged to use the template.

The submitting/corresponding author is responsible for the manuscript during the submission and peer review process. The submitting author is responsible for ensuring that all eligible co-authors are included in the author list and that they have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript before submission.

A **double-blind review process** is applied to all submitted papers.

Publication costs and payment

All articles published in JECO are made available in full open access.

A fee of 800 euros (EUR) is required for articles that are accepted after the peer review process. This fee is intended to cover expenses related to peer review, copyediting, typesetting, long-term archiving, and journal operations.

After acceptance, invoices will be sent via email to the payment contact specified by the authors. Only invoices issued by BsRC (@bsrc.it) will be considered valid, and we do not permit any third party to collect these fees. If applicable, local VAT or sales tax will be added. For more detailed information about the payment, write an e-mail to jeco@bsrc.it. Authors may also qualify for discounts, which are determined directly by the Editor and/or the Editorial staff according to specific promotions. Authors that resulted available to review papers could obtain significant discounts.

Submission checklist

- Please read the aim of the journal to assess whether your manuscript is suitable for this journal
- Please include a cover letter as described below.
- Use the Microsoft Word template and choose between different models depending on the type of manuscript. A model for publishing additional data is also available to allow for a complete collection of experimental data.
- Ensure that issues of publication ethics, research ethics, copyright, authorship, figure formats, data and reference formats are resolved according to the specifications provided by the publisher.
- Ensure that all authors have agreed to the content of the submitted manuscript and confirm that they have read the instructions for author.

Manuscript details

Types of Publications

Manuscripts submitted to JECO should neither be published previously nor be under consideration for publication in another journal.

The most important article types are:

- Research papers. Consist of manuscripts of original research work; the article should present scientifically valid experiments and contribute significantly to new knowledge. The most relevant and up-to-date references in the field should be considered and included in the manuscript. The outline should contain the following sections: Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusions and References. Publication of all experimental results including controls is strongly recommended. For ecotoxicological experiments, all parameters collected in relation to the intended endpoint must be reported. Publication of the results of experiments that resulted in non-significant differences between the tested and control populations is permitted and recommended, provided that all experimental details are published.
- Review. Adopting a critical and constructive approach, reviews provide an in-depth analysis of the existing literature in a specific field of study, highlighting gaps, needs, and current issues, and offering recommendations for future research. No new, unpublished data should be presented. The outline should include the following sections: Summary, Keywords, Introduction, Relevant sections, Discussion, Conclusions, Future Prospects.

- Data set. This format allows for the publication of experimental data that includes a detailed description of the materials and methods with a clear spatial and temporal localisation of the reported sampling and/or experiments, as well as a detailed and complete section on quality assurance and quality control of the collected data to allow full traceability of the values obtained. To ensure the reproducibility of the experiment, all experimental details must be provided.
- School experiment. School topics can be presented in the form of activity boxes, graphic experiments, cards, etc. This type of contribution can be experiments, experiences, observations or similar, aimed at children and young people in schools. Data sets/experiments collected by citizens are also permitted and welcome in this area. For Italian entities/institutions: please also provide an Italian-language version of the contribution for local dissemination purposes, including all text contained in tables, images, charts, and other visual content.

Accepted File Formats

When preparing the manuscript, authors are required to use the Microsoft Word template. Use of the templates is strongly recommended. Manuscripts prepared in Microsoft Word must include graphics (schematics, figures, etc.) in the main text after the paragraph of the first citation in the selected location. The manuscript should employ either American or British English consistently; mixing variants is not permitted.

Cover Letter

The cover letter must be provided with each manuscript submitted. It should be concise and explain why the content of the paper is relevant by the scientific community. It should explain why the manuscript fits within the subject area of the journal.

The following statements should be included in the cover letter:

- The authors confirm that neither the manuscript nor any part of its content is currently under consideration for or published in any other journal.
- All authors have approved the manuscript and agree to its submission to JECO.

Please suggest three potential reviewers who could review the manuscript and provide detailed contact information (address, homepage, telephone, e-mail address). The suggested reviewers should neither be current collaborators of the co-authors nor have published with one of the co-authors of the manuscript within the last three years. A different Institution for the reviewer should be preferred. A member of the editorial board should be nominated as a potential reviewer. The editors may use the suggested reviewers or continue with others.

Authors can disclose potential conflicts of interest in the cover letter during the submission process.

The cover letter can be insert directly on the website at the moment of the manuscript submission, it is not necessary write it as a separate file.

Manuscript Preparation

Graphic Summary

Graphic summary (GS) is an image that appears alongside the text summary in the table of contents; it is allowed and encouraged. It should not only summarise the content but also present the topic of the article in an eye-catching way. In addition, it should not exactly match the image in the article or be a simple overlay of several partial images. Please note that the GS must be an original and unpublished work of art. It should not contain stamps, currency of a country or branded items.

The GS should be a high-quality illustration or diagram in one of the following formats: PNG or JPEG. The text should be written in a clear and readable manner; please choose one of the following fonts: Arial, Calibri, Courier, Helvetica, Times, or Ubuntu. The size of GS should be of high quality (the minimum size is 560 pixels high and 1100 pixels wide).

Authorship and authors' affiliations or changes of authors' list

Only adult contributors (18 years or older) should be listed as authors. Contributions from minors, such as students, may be acknowledged in a general manner in the Acknowledgments section (e.g., "students of class XY").

If a supervising teacher or mentor wishes to include minors as authors, a signed informed consent form from the parents or legal guardians must be provided.

Authors should include their first and last name, their current institution, and the institution where most research for the manuscript was conducted. We recommend that the institution where most of the research was conducted or supported be listed as the lead author. However, please check with your institution for any contractual requirements.

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- Significant contributions to the conception or design of the article or to data acquisition, analysis, or interpretation; AND
- Drafting of the article or critical review for important intellectual content; AND
- Approval of the final version of the work before publication; AND
- Responsibility for all aspects of the work, ensuring that any issues related to the accuracy or integrity of the work are properly investigated and addressed.

Those who have contributed to the work but are not eligible as authors should be listed in the acknowledgements. All changes to the author list should be approved by all authors, including those who have been removed from the list. The corresponding author should serve as the point of contact between the editor and the other authors, ensuring that co-authors are kept informed and involved in decisions regarding the publication. We reserve the right to request confirmation that all authors fulfil the conditions for authorship.

Manuscript format

You can download four different templates for research papers, didactic experiments, data sets and supplementary materials. The format includes a first page that is removed for double-checking. Your manuscript title should be clear, focused, and pertinent. It should indicate whether it is a study with trial data, a systematic review, a meta-analysis or a replication study.

Abbreviations and other details

Please define any acronyms, abbreviations, or initials the first time they appear, in each section (in the summary, in the main text, in the first figure or table). When they are defined for the first time, the acronyms/abbreviations/initialisms should be added in brackets after the written-out form.

Report the units of measurement in accordance with the International System of Units (SI).

Equations: Please use Microsoft's equation editor (in Word). Equations should be editable by the editor and not appear in an image format.

Research data and supplementary materials: Please note that publication of your manuscript requires that you provide readers with all materials, data and protocols associated with the publication.

Figures, Schemes and Tables

The files for figures and schematics must be provided at the time of submission in a single zip archive and in a sufficiently high resolution. All common formats are accepted; however, JPEG and PDF are preferred. All figures, diagrams and tables should be included in the main text close to their first citation and must be numbered according to their publication number (Figure 1, Diagram 1, Figure 2, Diagram 2, Table 1, etc.). All figures, diagrams, and tables should include a brief descriptive title, a caption, and clear explanatory headings for each table column. Authors should use the Microsoft Word table option to create tables. Tables sent as images will not be accepted. Authors are requested to create figures and schematics in colour (RGB with 8 bits per channel). No additional fee will be charged for the publication of full-colour graphics. If illustrations contain text, this must be in English.

For scientific experiments, the figure must be submitted in duplicate with the text in English and Italian.

Supplementary Materials

Provide a description of any supplementary materials available online with the manuscript (e.g., figures, tables, videos, spreadsheets). Each element should be identified with its name and title in the format: Figure S1: title, Table S1: title, etc.

Further Editorial details

Data guidelines

Data policy. JECO is committed to supporting the open exchange of scientific content and enabling our authors to follow best practises in sharing and archiving research data. We would encourage all authors of articles published in JECO to share their research data. This includes protocols, analytical methods, raw data, processed data, code, software, algorithms, and study materials, etc.. The data should be findable, accessible and reusable – so that other researchers can find and use the data. In addition, the research materials needed to reproduce an experiment should be specified in the materials and methods section. Information on data availability is required for all published articles. During the peer review process and editorial decision making, authors may be asked to provide existing datasets or raw data analysed in the manuscript and indicate whether these should be made available to other researchers after publication. Authors will also be asked for details of the datasets analysed in the manuscript. It is recommended to explain the status of data availability with a corresponding data availability statement.

Data preservation. JECO recognises that researchers, institutions, journals and data archives have a shared responsibility for the long-term preservation of data and encourages authors to select data archives with this goal in mind. The journal asks authors to commit to retaining their datasets on the servers of their laboratory or institution for at least five years after publication. If the archive to which the data was originally submitted disappears or the data is lost during this time, we may ask authors to upload the data to another archive and publish an update or correction to the original publication. Authors may be required to inform the editorial board as soon as possible if they remove their data from the original public repository or alter the access criteria in a way that is not compatible with publication.

Citation of data. Authors are asked to formally cite all datasets mentioned in their manuscript that are stored in external repositories, including the main datasets that are the focus of the paper, as well as any other datasets used in the paper. Authors must cite both the relevant research articles and the datasets themselves for previously published datasets. Correct citation of the data will be checked and enforced by the editors prior to publication.

Supplementary materials. Additional data and materials can be included as "Supplementary Materials" when submitting the manuscript. The supplementary materials will be sent to the reviewers as part of the peer review process. Only Word format is accepted. Citations and references in supplementary files are permitted.

Unpublished data. Restrictions on the availability of data should be noted at the time of submission and in the manuscript. Please avoid "data not shown": authors are invited to publish all comments related to the manuscript as supplementary material. "Unpublished data" intended for a future manuscript, whether "in progress" or "submitted" but not yet approved, should be cited in the text and included in the references list.

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Research ethics. Authors must declare that the research was conducted in compliance with the principles of the 1975 Declaration of Helsinki (revised 2013) if it involves human participants, human materials, tissues, or data. According to paragraph 23 of this statement, prior to conducting the research, approval must be obtained from the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or other appropriate ethics committee to confirm that the study complies with national and international guidelines. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) Statement section of the article should, at a minimum, provide the project identifier, approval date, and the name of the ethics committee or IRB. For instance: "The study was carried out following the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki, and the protocol was approved by the Ethics Committee of [name] (project identifier) on [approval date]". For non-interventional studies (e.g. surveys, questionnaires, social media research), all participants must be fully informed about whether their anonymity is guaranteed, the reasons for the research, the use of the data and whether there are any risks associated with participation.

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Authors must identify and disclose any relationships or interests that could improperly influence their work. Potential conflicts of interest include both non-financial interests (such as professional or personal relationships, affiliations, beliefs, etc.) and/or financial interests (such as employment, investments, consultancy, etc.). Authors can disclose potential conflicts of interest in the cover letter during the submission process.

If no conflicts exist, authors should declare as follows

Conflicts of interest: authors declare that no conflicts of interest exist.

Editorial Procedures and Peer Review

Immediately after submission, the committee checks whether the manuscript meets the high scientific and ethical standards. The scientific editors may decide to reject the manuscript, request a revision before review, or continue with the review process and recommend suitable reviewers.

Once a manuscript has passed the initial checks, it will be forwarded to at least two independent experts for review. A simple blind review process is used, where the identity of the authors is known to the reviewers. The reviewers' comments are confidential and will only be disclosed with the express consent of the reviewer.

Editorial decision and revision. All articles published in JECO are subject to a peer-review process and receive at least two reviews. The decision of the scientific editor is one of the following:

- Accept after minor revisions: The article is accepted in principle after a revision based on the reviewer's comments. The authors have 15 days to make minor revisions.
- Re-review after major revisions: Manuscript acceptance is based on revisions. Authors must respond point-by-point; if some comments cannot be revised, please specify the reason. Generally, a maximum of two major rounds of revisions are planned for each manuscript. Authors will be invited to resubmit the revised manuscript within 30 days; the updated version will then be sent to the reviewers. To avoid undue time pressure and to ensure that revisions are thorough and well-considered, we suggest that authors withdraw their manuscript before resubmitting if the revision process takes longer than two months.
- Rejection and request for resubmission: If additional experiments are required to support the conclusions, the manuscript will be rejected, and authors will be asked to resubmit the paper once further experiments have been performed.
- Reject: The article has serious flaws and/or does not provide a substantial original contribution. No offer for resubmission to the journal is made.

All reviewer comments should be answered point by point. Authors are required to provide a clear response if they disagree with a reviewer.

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Declaration required

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Author Contributions. Each author must have contributed substantially to the study (such as designing, collecting, analysing, or interpreting data or developing new tools) AND must have approved the final version submitted (and the version substantially revised by the journal staff to reflect the author's contribution to the study); AND that he/she agrees

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Data Availability Statement. Please indicate in this section where the data related to the reported results can be found, including links to publicly archived datasets that were analysed or generated as part of the study. Please refer to the suggested information on data availability in the section.

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References. All references cited (including technical standards, websites, and software tools) must be listed individually in this section, while those cited exclusively in the Supplementary Materials should be included in a separate reference list within the Supplementary file. In-text citations should include the author's last name and the year of publication, separated by a comma. References should be arranged in alphabetical order. To minimize errors, the use of reference management software is strongly recommended. Wherever available, include the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) for each reference. Please use APA 7th edition citation style for all references. For detailed guidance on how to cite different types of sources, refer to the official APA citation guide: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>

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