ASM STYLE (American Society for Microbiology)

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ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT

Editorial Style

The editorial style of ASM journals conforms to the ASM Style Manual for Journals (American Society for Microbiology, 2014, in-house document) and How To Write and Publish a Scientific Paper, 7th ed. (Greenwood, Santa Barbara, CA, 2011), as interpreted and modified by the editors and the ASM Journals Department.

Type every portion of the manuscript double-spaced (a minimum of 6 mm between lines), including figure legends, table footnotes, and references, and number all pages in sequence, including the abstract, figure legends, and tables. Place the last two items after the References section. Manuscript pages should have continuous line numbers; manuscripts without line numbers may be editorially rejected by the editor, with a suggestion of resubmission after line numbers are added. The font size should be no smaller than 12 points. It is recommended that the following sets of characters be easily distinguishable in the manuscript: the numeral zero (0) and the letter "oh" (O); the numeral one (1), the letter "el" (l), and the letter "eye" (I); and a multiplication sign and the letter "ex." Do not create symbols as graphics or use special fonts that are external to your word processing program; use the "insert symbol" function. Set the page size to 8 1/2 by 11 inches (ca. 21.6 by 28 cm). Italicize any words that should appear in italics, and indicate paragraph lead-ins in boldface type.

Manuscript Submission Checklist

Double-space all text, including references and figure legends.
Number pages.
Number lines continuously.
Present statistical treatment of data where appropriate.
Format references in ASM style.

Full-Length Papers

Full-Length papers should include the elements described in this section.

Title, running title, and byline. Each manuscript should present the results of an independent, cohesive study; thus, numbered series titles are not permitted. Exercise care in composing a main title. Avoid the main title/subtitle arrangement, complete sentences, and unnecessary articles. On the title page, include the title, the running title (not to exceed 54 characters and spaces), the name of each author, all authors' affiliations at the time the work was performed, and a footnote indicating the present address of any author no longer at the institution where the work was performed.

Abstract. Limit the abstract to 250 words or fewer and concisely summarize the basic content of the paper without presenting extensive experimental details.
Introduction. The introduction should supply sufficient background information to allow the reader to understand and evaluate the results of the present study without referring to previous publications on the topic. The introduction should also provide the hypothesis that was addressed or the rationale for the present study.

Materials and Methods. The Materials and Methods section should include sufficient technical information to allow the experiments to be repeated.

Results. In the Results section, include only the results of the experiments; reserve extensive interpretation of the results for the Discussion section. Present the results as concisely as possible in one of the following: text, table(s), or figure(s). Avoid extensive use of graphs to present data that might be more concisely presented in the text or tables.

Discussion. The Discussion should provide an interpretation of the results in relation to previously published work and to the experimental system at hand and should not contain extensive repetition of the Results section or reiteration of the introduction. In short papers, the Results and Discussion sections may be combined.

Acknowledgments.

Appendixes. Appendixes that contain additional material to aid the reader are permitted.

References

In the reference list, references are numbered in the order in which they are cited in the article (citation-sequence reference system); ASM no longer uses the citation-name system with an alphabetized reference list. In the text, references are cited parenthetically by number in sequential order. Data that are not published or not peer reviewed are simply cited parenthetically in the text (see section ii below).

(i) References listed in the References section. The following types of references must be listed in the References section:

Journal articles (both print and online)
Books (both print and online)
Book chapters (book title is required)
Patents
Theses and dissertations
Published conference proceedings
Meeting abstracts (from published abstract books or journal supplements)
Letters (to the editor)
Company publications
In-press journal articles, books, and book chapters (publication title is required)

Provide the names of all the authors and/or editors for each reference; names should not be abbreviated with “et al.” Since title and byline information that is downloaded from PubMed does not always show accents, italics, or special characters, authors should refer to the PDF files or hard-copy versions of the articles and incorporate the necessary corrections in the submitted
manuscript. Abbreviate journal names according to the PubMed Journals Database (National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health), the primary source for ASM style.

Follow the styles shown in the examples below for print references.


2. Falagas ME, Kasiakou SK. 2006. Use of international units when dosing colistin will help decrease confusion related to various formulations of the drug around the world. Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 50:2274-2275. (Letter.){"Letter" or "Letter to the editor" is allowed but not required at the end of such an entry.}

3. Cox CS, Brown BR, Smith JC. J. Gen. Genet., in press.* {Article title is optional; journal title is mandatory.}


5. Stratagene. 2006. Yeast DNA isolation system: instruction manual. Stratagene, La Jolla, CA. {Use the company name as the author if none is provided for a company publication.}


7. Fitzgerald G, Shaw D. In Waters AE (ed), Clinical microbiology, in press. EFH Publishing Co, Boston, MA.* {Chapter title is optional.}


13. Odell JC. April 1970. Process for batch culturing. US patent 484,363,770. {Include the name of the patented item/process if possible; the patent number is mandatory.}

*A reference to an in-press ASM publication should state the control number (e.g., AEM00123-14) if it is a journal article or the name of the publication if it is a book.

Online-only references must provide essentially the same information that print references do. For online journal articles, posting or revision dates may replace the year of publication; a DOI (preferred) or URL is required for articles with nontraditional page numbers or electronic article identifiers. Some examples follow.


Note: a posting or accession date is required for any online reference that is periodically updated or changed.

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Other journals may use different styles for their publish-ahead-of-print manuscripts, but citation entries must include the following information: author name(s), posting date, title, journal title, and volume and page numbers and/or DOI. The following is an example:


(ii) References cited in the text. References that should be cited in the text include

Unpublished data
Manuscripts submitted for publication
Unpublished conference presentations (e.g., a report or poster that has not appeared in published conference proceedings)
Personal communications
Patent applications and patents pending
Computer software, databases, and websites
These references should be made parenthetically in the text as follows:

... similar results (R. B. Layton and C. C. Weathers, unpublished data).

... system was used (J. L. McInerney, A. F. Holden, and P. N. Brighton, submitted for publication).

... as described previously (M. G. Gordon and F. L. Rattner, presented at the Fourth Symposium on Food Microbiology, Overton, IL, 13 to 15 June 1989). [For nonpublished abstracts and posters, etc.]

... this new process (V. R. Smoll, 20 June 1999, Australian Patent Office). [For non-U.S. patent applications, give the date of publication of the application.]


... using ABC software (version 2.2; Department of Microbiology, State University [http://www.state.micro.edu]).

URLs for companies that produce any of the products mentioned in your study or for products being sold may not be included in the article. However, company URLs that permit access to scientific data related to the study or to shareware used in the study are permitted.

(iii) Citations in abstracts. Because the abstract must be able to stand apart from the article, references cited in it should be clear without recourse to the References section. Use an abbreviated form of citation, omitting the article title, as follows.


This style should also be used for Addenda in Proof.

(iv) References related to supplemental material. If references must be cited in the supplemental material, list them in a separate References section within the supplemental material and cite them by those numbers; do not simply include citations of numbers from the reference list of the associated article. If the same reference(s) is to be cited in both the article itself and the supplemental material, then that reference would be listed in both References sections.