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The Biochemical Journal places emphasis on the prompt publication of Full-length Papers (on average about 6 months after receipt), Rapid Papers (on average within 3 months of receipt), Reviews and BJ Letters. It is its Journal’s policy to publish papers in English in all fields of biochemistry, provided that they make a sufficient contribution to biochemical knowledge. Papers may include new results obtained experimentally, descriptions of new experimental methods of biochemical importance, or new interpretations of existing results. Theoretical contributions will be considered equally with papers dealing with experimental work. All work presented should have as its aim the development of biochemical concepts rather than the mere recording of facts. Preliminary or inconclusive experiments should not be described.

Papers are accepted from non-members and members of the Biochemical Society. Prospective authors should note that the Biochemical Journal offers rapid publication and makes no manuscript handling charges, no page charges and no charges for plates (except colour). Fifty reprints are provided free of charge; further copies are available at modest cost.

The paragraphs below are a summarized version of information provided in the Biochemical Society’s Policy of the Journal and Instructions to Authors (Biochem. J. (1988) 249, 1–20). Copies are available from the Editorial Office.

The following types of submission are considered by the Editorial Board.

1. Full-length Papers (normally eight printed pages maximum)
2. Rapid Papers (four printed pages maximum)
3. Letters (two printed pages maximum)
4. Reviews (usually solicited)

Full-length Papers and Rapid Papers

Full-length Papers should not normally exceed eight printed pages, including figures and tables. Longer papers may be acceptable if their content justifies their length, but authors should remember that short papers are generally published with the least delay.

All papers that can be accommodated in four pages of the Journal will be treated as Rapid Papers. They receive priority treatment and it is aimed for their publication to be within 3 months of receipt. However, the criteria of reviewing and the appearance of Rapid Papers in the Journal are identical with those of Full-length Papers. In order to achieve the accelerated schedule, reviewers are asked to give priority to the paper and proofs of accepted Rapid Papers are not supplied. Rapid Papers that do not contain half-tone figures may be submitted by FAX to the number below. In this case only one copy of the article is required, and acknowledgment of receipt and the review decision will be returned to the author by FAX. Refer to the current Instructions to Authors for details of this procedure.

Papers submitted for publication should be addressed to the Editorial Manager, The Biochemical Journal, 7 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5BP, U.K. (telephone: 01-405 4918; FAX 01-831 1853). For overseas the international code for the U.K. is +44 and the initial 0 should be omitted. Three copies of the typescript should be submitted. The typescript should bear the name, address and telephone number (and FAX number if possible) of the person to whom correspondence (including proofs) should be sent. An additional copy of the synopsis should be enclosed. The copy should be accompanied by the original artwork. Photocopies of line drawings are acceptable for the other two copies but glossy prints (not photocopies) of all the half-tone figures must be provided.

It is helpful if the author encloses copies of relevant preceding papers, especially if they were not published in the Biochemical Journal. If reference is made to a paper ‘in the press’ in another journal the reviewers will not have access to the original material and it is essential that the author should include photocopies of the relevant typescript or proofs together with documentary evidence that it has been accepted for publication. Failure to do this may lead to delay in reviewing. Any reference to a ‘personal communication’ must be supported by written permission for the quotation from the individual concerned.

Before preparing papers, authors should consult a current issue of the Journal to make themselves familiar with the general format, such as the use of cross-headings, layout of tables and citation of references (either the Harvard or the numerical system may be used for these). Typescripts should be in double-spaced typing throughout (including the references and legends of tables and figures) on sheets of uniform size (preferably ISO A4) with wide margins. Output from computer printers must be of ‘near letter’ quality.

Full-length Papers should not normally exceed 7000 words in length, and Rapid Papers must not exceed 3500 words, each inclusive of title, summary and references. Authors must assess what proportion of a page insertions (such as tables, figures and schemes) will occupy and reduce the number of text words accordingly at the rate of 1000 words per full page of the Journal.

Authors should state under which section of the contents list they wish their paper to appear:

- Proteins
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- Carbohydrates
- Lipids
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- Synthesis and degradation of macromolecules
- Intermediary metabolism and metabolic control
- Bioenergetics and transport
- Membranes and receptors
- Cell structure and function
- Methods

BJ Letters and Reviews

BJ Letters are intended to provide an opportunity to discuss, criticize or extend particular points made in published work, or to present a new hypothesis. They should not be comments on general aspects of the biochemical world, nor should they be used as an alternative to a Rapid Paper. If a letter is polemical in nature, a reply may be solicited from other interested parties before its publication. Letters must not exceed 1500 words, which is approximately the equivalent of two printed pages; one figure, table or scheme may be included. BJ Letters may also be submitted by FAX (see above).

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