Guide for authors

Foreword

Agrociencia is a scientific journal founded and supported by the College of Postgraduates, 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.

In Agrociencia, all submitted manuscripts derived from theoretical or experimental research shall be evaluated and may be published in the form of a scientific article, note, or essay. Insightful documentary reviews may also be submitted.

All manuscripts must be original and unpublished, and not be under review by another journal.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 journal's editorial standards, 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:

- Water, Soil, Climate
- Biotechnology
- Livestock Science
- Food Science
- Wildlife
- Phytoscience
- Farm Equipment and Machinery
- Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Computing
- Plant Protection
- Renewable Natural Resources
- Socioeconomics

Manuscripts are received in only one original language, either Spanish or English, but their publication is in both. Therefore, the translation from one language to the other is done by professionals designated by Agrociencia. Translation fees and payment for translation is agreed upon between authors and translators, and full payment for the translation must be made to the satisfaction of both parties for the manuscript to be published in Agrociencia.

STRUCTURE AND LAYOUT FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

General guidelines

All manuscripts must be written according to a template, a predesigned format for this purpose (link to **Template** file).

No paragraph (including the **ABSTRACT**) should be indented. All pages must be flush with both margins (Word® option, justified) and every line must end with full words. Line numbers must be added and each page 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 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 author for correspondence, indicating that the other co-authors have authorized the version that is submitted for evaluation (link to **Letter of Application** file). Authors should suggest three potential reviewers and two potential technical editors to speed up the review and editing processes. These referees and editors must be from institutions other than those of the authors, and preferably from countries other than those of the authors. The application letter must be signed by the corresponding author, and no changes will be accepted regarding this author, or in the order of the list of co-authors, once the manuscript has been submitted. In other stages of the editorial process, communication can be established by email to the following addresses: agrociencia14@gmail.com, agrocienciaeditor1@gmail.com and agrocienciaeditor2@gmail.com; these shall be the only addresses for correspondence with the journal.

Structure of the scientific article

Manuscripts registered as scientific articles must have no more than 6200 words, including tables, figures and references. The font is Palatino Linotype size 10 p. Only by exception shall documents of greater length be accepted.

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**. In index searches, the **ABSTRACT** and the **CONCLUSIONS** define most of the queries for articles and essays. 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 may be written, in simple or compound terms separated by commas. The scientific names of species may be used here. 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 *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 level of the topic is known. Most of it (75–80%) should be from the most recent nine years to the date of receipt of the manuscript. Citations are only accepted for articles published in journals subject to strict review and for books published by internationally recognized publishers. In no case will citations of theses, conference summaries or electronic pages that do not have scientific support be accepted. The cited antecedents must be written in a congruent way, and ordered in relation to the sequence of the article. 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, **25-30** references are accepted, for essays and documentary reviews **up to 35** 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 (*i.e.*, 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 be suffice to indicate the respective reference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section must be integrated (*i.e.* do not write the discussion and results as separate sections), so that the appropriate answers are presented to the questions: what happened and why? What meaning do the results have? And what relationship do they 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.

Authors must consider that 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. Regarding the latter, the causes of such differences should be discussed, and options for future studies proposed. Consequently, references not included in the **INTRODUCTION** and **MATERIALS AND METHODS** sections should be added to this section.

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.

Authors should not present inferences about numerical differences that are not supported by tests and statistical procedures in current use. Results derived from Duncan's test, based on the classical least significant difference (LSD) test for multiple comparisons of means, are not accepted, and 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 ($p \leq 0.01$, $p \leq 0.05$, $p \leq 0.10$). It should be noted that the *p* for probability is written in *italics* and separated from the symbol ≤. 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 study results, but without repeating them. No conclusion should be argued or based on assumptions. The conclusions should not be numbered, nor should abbreviations or acronyms be used in them (*i.e*., MS, RFLP, PV, EUA, REML, 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. They do not need to be written in a single paragraph, but the recommendation is a maximum of three. 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

This section is made up of 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 [the latter with the date of retrieval, indicating (Retrieved: Month year)] in the case of digital references. It is important to make sure not to omit or change the year of publication, the surnames (a.k.a. last names or family names) or names (first names or initials) of the authors or journals, or the titles of the articles or books consulted. For scientific articles, **25-30** references are accepted, for scientific essays and documental reviews **up to 35** 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, for which, both 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 on individually. In cases where errors are detected, the reviewers, referees or editors must annotate, correct and comment on each particular reference.

Structure of the scientific note

The following are accepted as a scientific note: 1) Brief findings and contributions, preferably based on recent research results that may still require verification but, in the opinion of the referees and editors, are sufficiently novel; 2) Results that, in the opinion of the referees or editors, deserve to be published under this name; or 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 length is 3000 words in the original language, including tables, figures and **REFERENCES**.

Structure of the scientific essay and the documentary review

Scientific essays and documentary reviews 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 study. Scientific essays and documentary reviews that do not provide original knowledge or interpretations will not be published in Agrociencia. Every essay or review submitted to the editorial process in Agrociencia must have a solid and updated **REFERENCES** section, but without exceeding 35 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, following the format, layout, and styles of the writing elements already described for articles.

The following layout and styles are required for the four types of contributions that Agrociencia publishes: scientific articles, notes, essays, and documentary reviews. The following sections present the formats and styles required for each section or element.

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 center-aligned on the page, with all words written in capital letters (see exception below) 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 capitalized; the describing authority is 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.

Full names are separated by commas and there is no period at the end of the last co-author's full name. Author information must be centered, immediately below the main title, without academic degrees or job titles, with capital letters used only for the initial letters and the surnames in **bold** type. Progressive numerical superscripts are placed at the end of each name.

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 center) and second level (faculty or research institute), without resorting to the use of initials or acronyms. It is advisable to employ Scielo's wyta tool (http://wayta.scielo.org/) to avoid the incorrect use 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 is written after the country.

Examples:

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

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

[3] Postgraduate College Campus San Luis Potosí. Postgraduate in Innovation in Natural Resources Management. Iturbide No. 73, Salinas de Hidalgo, San Luis Potosí, Mexico. C. P. 78600.

These indications should be adapted to the official addresses of institutions in other countries, as the case may be. If all authors work at the same institution, a single index (under each name) will suffice. In all cases, the author responsible for the publication must be identified, with whom all correspondence related to the manuscript will be maintained. This author for correspondence must be identified by an asterisk (*) to the right of his/her numerical superscript. Only this author's contact email should be included.

As exemplified in the Template, the corresponding author must be noted at the end of the list of affiliated institutions. If during the editorial process the corresponding author modifies the contact information provided at the beginning, he/she must make the respective changes before the translation, in the version authorized by the Editor-in-Chief of the journal. Keywords: these are the descriptors that allow the contribution to be classified in scientific literature indices. No more than six simple or compound terms may be used, with an initial capital letter only used for proper nouns. Words are separated by a comma, with a period placed at the end of the last keyword. Alphabetical order is not required, but rather order of importance. The scientific names of the species under investigation should be included as keywords. Therefore, authors should consider this 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**, at the left margin of the text, but with justified alignment (adjusted to both page margins).

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 centered, without a final period. The Template is edited for it. This format must be adhered to.

SECOND (2nd) ORDER

The different sections of the texts postulated as articles or notes correspond to this type: **ABSTRACT**, **INTRODUCTION**, etc.; the entire heading should be capitalized and centered, with no period at the end. All the important sections in a scientific essay or documentary 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. They are centered and have no period at the end. 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 under that heading.

Fifth (5th) order. The recommendation is that authors should avoid them. If they are essential, they must be written in the same way as those of the fourth order, but this is the only heading-order ending with a period, with the text immediately following.

Citations of references in the text

To consign 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 systems … (Álvarez-Icaza, 2013) ...; forests in Mexico are being threatened (López, 2005) ...]

2) In the case of two authors, the first surname of each one is separated by the conjunction "and," with the year immediately afterwards [examples, Maffei and Noss (2012) demonstrated...; a protocol developed by Prugh and Sinclaer (2010) ...].

3) If the citation corresponds to three or more authors, the surname of the first author is written and then the Latin locution *et al.* (abbreviation of *et alii* which means "and collaborators," which is why *et al.* always has a period at the end before the comma or parenthesis), followed by the year in parentheses [examples: … "according to Peña-Mondragón et al. (2014), ...; Sosa et al. (2009) found...]. Note 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 [example: "Some examples of author names were used in the previous section to cite references in the text (Sosa et al., 2009; Prugh and Sinclaer, 2010)"]. 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., placed immediately after the year of publication. These citations should appear in letter order in the **REFERENCES** section.

Theses of any academic degree are not accepted as references or as citations. Workshop, conference or summit summaries or internet pages that do not have scientific or academic support are not accepted either. Exceptionally and with a solid justification, technical reports or updated databases may be used. In all cases, the referees and the Editor-in-Chief 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 Essays and Scientific Notes with the name of the newspaper as author and then the year [example: Millennium (2017)]. Textual citations may be used only by exception and are noted in quotation marks, with the author and year of publication indicated at the end. In these cases, the referees and the Editor will also 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 National Autónoma de México). 2013. … etc.; FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). 2016. … etc.

Authors must cite only their original sources and not refer to references cited by third parties. These third assessments and judgments about the concepts on which they are based may differ from the conclusions and values recorded in the primary original reference.

When referring to original methods of traditional application, descriptive authorities in biological and systematic keys, or classical numerical methods, and only in these cases, the old references cited in the text must be included in full in the **REFERENCES** section, 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 documentary reviews, and a maximum of 20 references in scientific notes.

Tables

Tables (a.k.a. "boxes", but they must not be referred to as such) are used to complement the text, and as a significant space saver. They should be simple, concise and clear. Each table must present data in an organized way, in a way that facilitates comparisons, shows classifications, observes some relationships and saves space in the text. Each table must be self-explanatory and its content must not be repeated in the 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, the following should be noted: **Table 1.** Title of the table must be written at the top of the table without being part of it. That is, the title of the table should not be included in a higher cell, 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.

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 (subline) that covers only part of the columns or concepts. The first two full horizontal lines (top and bottom) are placed bordering the header row; and the third (the ending) should be drawn at the end of the table. If there are hierarchical concepts in the header row, a smaller 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 †, ¶, §, Þ, ¤, ††, ¶¶, §§, ÞÞ, ¤¤, †††... must be used, in order of precedence and in superscript type.

An example chart is provided in this guide (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 initial capital letter) followed by the corresponding number (example, Table 1, Table 2, etc.)

It should also be noted that all information in a table is aligned with tabs, not spaces, and that the alignment of the fractions is like quantities of the decimal system, preceded by a point (the decimal point). Data written as a box in Word® must allow its alignment to be manipulated for hypertext formatting and markup. 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 fiber and biogas *in vitro*[†] of ferments obtained from corn stover and mulatto grass inoculated with the MR or P15 strain 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 corn 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 analyzed 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 fiber; Biogas 72: mL g^{-1} DM from 48 to 72 h; DM: Dry Matter; SEM: standard error of the mean. Notice the "*p*" for probability is written in *italics*.

Authors must take special care in the balance between the quantity of tables and text paragraphs, so as not to saturate the manuscript with 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. It is recommended that a maximum of four tables be included in the manuscript.

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 clear indications as to the number of the figure and the place that corresponds to it 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 dpi (dots per inch) and no more than 600 dpi. It is preferable that the images be postcard size (10 x 7.5 cm) and clearly indicate what the authors wants to show. For images that may show confusing spatial orientation, the orientation of the image in Word® should be indicated on a separate sheet.

Figures must be specified in the text and their titles must be Figure 1, Figure 2..., etc. Four figures is the maximum allowed for the entire manuscript.

Authors should also consider that the digital resolution of images comes at a cost in storage space (bytes) and that the capacity of available 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 3mm, scaled for publication (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 data series points. 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.

An example figure is provided in this guide (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 made. 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 in .jpg or .tiff image format; figures should also be inserted in their corresponding place in the manuscript, after mentioning them.

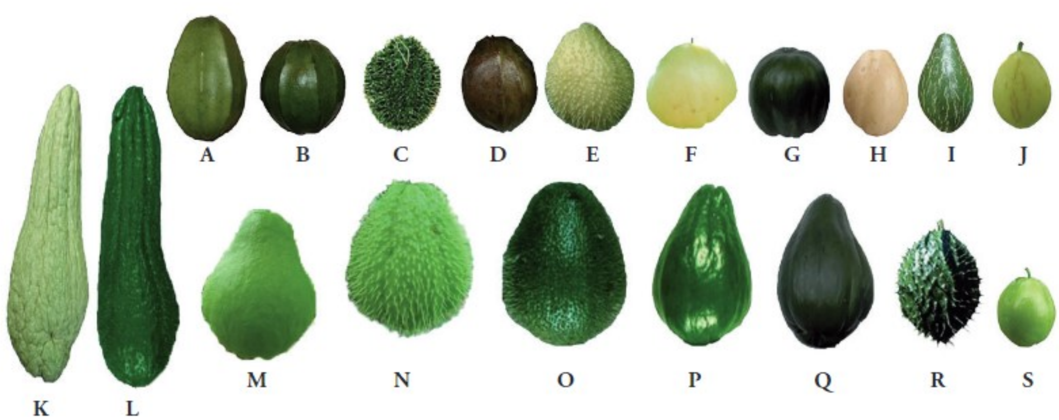

Figure 1. Representative phenotypes of fruits of *Sechium* spp. A: *Sechium* compositum type "Mal Paso"; B: S. compositum type "Talisman"; C: *S. edule* wild type; D: *S. chinantlense*; E: *S. edule* albus spinosum; F: *S. edule albus levis*; G: S. edule nigrum levis; H: *S. edule albus dulcis*; I: *S. 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 of photomicrographs and photomicrographs should be noted in the figure's title. 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 graphic, subgraphics, the label given to them must be written in capital letters [*i.e.* A, B, etc.]. The position of the label should be at the top right for each subfigure or subgraph.

As well as for tables, all figures must have callings and be included in the text in a progressive order.

Symbols and units

The units for variables, rates, and parameters must be written as authorized and indicated by the International System of 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 sq^{-2}). Also in manuscripts originally written in English, USD is the preferred unit for currency conversions, followed by the equivalent in MXN pesos in parentheses.

In a data series with the same measurement unit, values must be used followed by the unit (without placing a final period or capital letters at the beginning); for example: 2, 8 and 16 μL L-1; 16, 20 and 33%; 3400, 1200 and 400 kg; 4 and 9 months. On the other hand, if there is only one figure and it is less than 10, it must be written in letters (for example, six varieties, four replications, eight environments) unlike 16 trees, 126 wells, *et*c. However, if this figure accompanies a unit of the International System (BIPM), it must be expressed as a number (2 mg g-1, 6 g, 5 L). Numbers are separated from the units of measure, or percentages, by a space.

Paragraphs and sentences must not start with a numerical value (*e.g*. 15 plots...). The wording must be changed or the quantity must be written with letters (*i.e.* "Fifteen parcels"...) in order to be able to be placed at the beginning of a paragraph or sentence.

Before submitting the manuscript, it should be checked thoroughly to ensure that the symbols of the measurement units, as specified by the International System, are not pluralized: hectare(s) is ha; meter(s), m; litre(s), L; gram(s), g; nor its derived units (multiples and submultiples in the SI); for example, kilogram(s), kg; kilometre (s), km; Megagram(s), Mg. Note that the Megagram is the unit that the International System authorizes for tons. The values and their units must always be separated by a space [*i.e.* 2 mg g^{-1}, 6 g, 5 L, $p \leq 0.05$, pp: 25–30; 25, 60, 90 %].

Formulas and equations

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 2mm 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 (½, ¾) is recommended instead of square roots, cubes, etc. Powers of "e" are best expressed as "exp" (short for exponential function).

In chemical formulas, the charge of ions should be expressed as in this example: Ca^{2+} instead of Ca^{++}, and CO_3^{2-} instead of CO_3^{--}, 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: ^{14}C, ^{60}Co, 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.

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. Some rules for its preparation are as follows:

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 one.

2) Next, the last name or surnames of the second author, his/her initials or first names, and so on, are placed.

3) In all cases, the reference list can only include the first ten authors, and from the eleventh author onwards, the expression *et al*. must be used, followed by a period and year.

    a. In Spanish and English there are legally-recognized compound surnames, made up of two surnames joined by a hyphen; only if this is the case should this form be respected. Examples: Larqué-Saavedra A.; Smith-Jones W.

    b. It is common in English names to use two patronymics 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, the references must be ordered chronologically; if the year of publication is the same for several citations, they are differentiated with the letters a, b, c, etc. In the **REFERENCES** section, they must be ordered sequentially based on these letters.

6) Each component of a citation, depending on whether it is an article, book, database, etc., is separated by a comma. The order of these components 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 a dash. (i.e., an n–dash: –; https://www.punctuationmatters.com/en-dash-em-dash-hyphen/) The name of the journals in **REFERENCES** must be written in full (without being abbreviated), and a period must not be used before indicating volume and number. If there is a DOI, it must be written down in full format:

> Santos-Vijande ML, González-Busto Mújica B, López-Fernández B. 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 virtual resources.

When the cited reference is part of a publication whose chapters were written by different authors, such as international memoirs and procedural chronicles, the bibliographic citation should be structured as follows: author(s), year, and title of the article or chapter. Then, the word *In* is placed before the name of the book, followed by the surname and initials of the editor(s) or compiler(s). In either of the aforementioned cases, the corresponding indication is given between parentheses – that is, (ed.), (eds.) or (comp.), (comps.) –, as appropriate, with a period placed after the parentheses. Then, the name of the publishing house is written, followed by the place of publication (city, state and country) and the page numbering 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 virtual resources.

Capital letters should not be used for the titles of articles, technical brochures, or book chapters. They can only be used for the initials of proper names or after a period.

7) Capital 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 or Conference reports be accepted; however, in all cases it is preferable to use the article published *in extenso*.

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. http://www.scielo.org.mx/pdf/agritm/v40n3/v40n3a1.pdf (Retrieved: February 2021)

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

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 CO_2 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: November 2021).

Milenio. 2017. La crisis climática y el papel de la investigación agropecuaria moderna. Septiembre 25. 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. J. 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.

Rubio GZ. 2016. El sorgo en Chihuahua. *In*: Vázquez RA, Sánchez MJA. (comps.). Mejora Agrícola: Experiencias de 30 años de Investigación Fitotécnica. Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. Monterrey, México. pp: 87–98. https://doi.org/10.21640/ns.v11i28.2868

UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México). 2013. Guía de detección y prevención de duplicidades en los registros de la Administración Pública. Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas. Unidad de Posgrado. UNAM-UDICA-IMAP. http://www.unam.mx/iie/posgrado/cora/subcomda/detec-preven-dup-admin-314.html (Retrieved: April 2017).

Zamora GZ. 2016. Unidades productivas familiares en los Valles Altos de México. AgroProductividad 9 (6): 34–40. https://doi.org/10.32854/agrop.vi.1868