

Perspectives in Biodiversity

Perspectives in Biodiversity is a peer-reviewed Aotearoa / New Zealand biodiversity journal considering submissions from Australasia and the Pacific (and on occasion further afield). The Journal is intended to have broad coverage, considering manuscripts encompassing biosystematics and biogeography, ecology, genetics, reproductive biology (including pollination biology), taxonomy, ethology, entomology, ethnobotany, ethnozoology, herpetology, ornithology, bryology, lichenology, mycology and phycology. Annotated checklists of Aotearoa / New Zealand biota are encouraged. We will also consider manuscripts describing new, novel or unusual field techniques.

Prospective contributors should consult with the Senior Editors (<https://www.unitec.ac.nz/epress/index.php/perspectives-in-biodiversity/editorial-board/>) to determine whether a planned submission is appropriate.

Aims

Perspectives in Biodiversity fills a gap in New Zealand scientific literature. Specifically, the Journal is intended to enable students, graduates and researchers to publish their natural-history discoveries in a peer-reviewed format. Particular attention will be given to the following:

1. Documentation of the biota of a region, island or island group, with an emphasis on annotated checklists and descriptions of landform and vegetation associations.
2. Results of wildlife or vegetation survey and monitoring for conservation, restoration, or mitigations.
3. Population biology and phylogenetic studies of a species, taxonomic group, community, or region.
4. Formal taxonomic description of new species and/or combinations.

Features

- No page charges for publication
- Articles published yearly (online only)

Peer-review policy

All manuscripts are screened by the editorial board to assess that they match the Journal's aims and scope. The senior editors assign those manuscripts deemed to be appropriate for peer review to an associate editor.

Perspectives in Biodiversity operates a double-blind peer-review system. Reviewers will be sourced from both domestic and overseas institutions. All manuscripts are normally reviewed by two experts, but where there is disparity regarding the merits of the work, an additional review may also be requested, or one of the Journal's editors may give an evaluation.

Author Instructions

<https://www.unitec.ac.nz/epress/index.php/perspectives-in-biodiversity/author-guidelines/>

Types of manuscripts

Four types of manuscripts are considered – these will be published throughout the year and then compiled in a single issue at the end of each year (December):

- **Research Papers.** Conventional research articles that are 5,000 words, excluding references, tables, captions and appendices. Longer papers will be considered.
- **Annotated Checklists.** Typically, these are biogeographic papers that outline the biota of a specific location through listings of taxa seen, supplemented with notes on abundance, ecology and, if required, taxonomy.
- **Review Papers.** These are critical overviews of topics that are likely to be of general interest to the readership of the Journal. Review articles are 5,000 to 10,000 words, excluding references, tables, captions and appendices.
- **Short Communications.** These are shorter research papers that are 1,000 to 3,000 words, excluding references, tables and captions.

Submission of manuscripts

Submit a copy of the manuscript to epress@unitec.ac.nz with *Perspectives in Biodiversity* in the subject field.

Manuscripts must include all figures and tables in a single document at the end of the written text. Microsoft Word documents are preferred (for reviewers to use ‘track changes’ to make comments). All documents must be:

- in English. Abstracts may also be written in te reo Māori and ta re Moriori, provided they are accompanied by an English translation.
- Times New Roman, size 12 pt.
- double-spaced.
- page and lines numbered continuously.

In your cover letter or email, please recommend 2–3 potential reviewers, along with their affiliation (if any) and email addresses. Please confirm (in your email submission) that:

- All authors have seen the final version of the manuscript and approved the submission.
- All relevant animal welfare and conservation permissions have been obtained (see the **Ethics policy** section below).
- All graphic imagery permissions have been attained and appropriately attributed to the source.

The process

Once you have submitted your work following the submission guidelines detailed above, you will be sent an email of receipt. You can expect to have a response from the editorial team

within 2–4 working weeks. Each submitted manuscript that is considered by the journal Editor to be appropriate for the Journal is allocated to a member of the Editorial Board (i.e., Associate Editor) who will oversee the review process. The review is double-blind, and this process can take up to three months. Reviewer feedback will be collated and sent to you.

Referees and Board members do all their tasks voluntarily, so to ease the process, please submit manuscripts that have been thoroughly appraised by your colleagues, including someone with excellent knowledge of English grammar.

On acceptance

Authors will be asked to email the revised manuscript (including any responses to reviewer comments) as a Microsoft Word document within two months of receiving an acceptance email. All figures must be supplied electronically as separate JPG files, as large as possible. Page proofs will be sent by email to authors for approval, and papers will appear online as they are approved.

Please check that:

- Your citations and referencing style are correct for the Journal (see the **Manuscript** style section below).
- All citation/reference links have been removed if you have used referencing software (e.g., Endnote).
- All tables and figures are on separate pages.
- Remove page and line numbers.

During this process, it is the author's responsibility to keep the copy editor/publications manager informed of any changes in the author's address and to make their own arrangements for colleagues to correct proofs if the author is unavailable when proofs are to be dispatched. If proofs are not received back from the author within the set time frame, the manuscript will be published without the author's corrections.

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Ethics policy

If applicable, authors or researchers must acknowledge the approval of Animal Ethics Committees and demonstrate approval from relevant government agencies (e.g., New Zealand Department of Conservation), imi / iwi / hapū, landowners or other relevant stakeholders.

Manuscript style

All manuscripts must use SI units, UK English following the Concise Oxford Dictionary for spelling and the appropriate macrons in Māori and Moriori. Please visit Te Aka Māori Dictionary (www.maoridictionary.co.nz) for guidance on using macrons in Māori words. Nomenclature and taxonomic convention must follow the International Code of Nomenclature (see International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi and plants: <https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php>; International Code for Zoological Nomenclature: <https://www.iczn.org/the-code/the-code-online/>)

Research Papers and **Short Notes** are to include the following elements:

- **Title:** Informative and concise description of the content of the paper.
- **Authors:** Include the names of all authors who have had a significant role in the research. Include the mailing addresses of all authors, [ORCID iD](https://orcid.org/) if available (<https://orcid.org/>) and the email address of the corresponding author/s.
- **Running head:** Short title for the top of the page.
- **Acknowledgements:** Acknowledge all those who provided significant assistance to the research, sources of funding, details of Animal Ethics approvals, permit numbers and landowner approvals for research and/or specimen collection.
- **Data accessibility statement:** Manuscripts to provide details of the availability of associated data and/or code under the heading 'Data accessibility'. The Journal encourages data sharing, where authors can share the data, code and other artefacts supporting the results in the paper by archiving it in an appropriate public repository (e.g., GenBank, ResearchGate, Dryad). If appropriate, authors can include a data accessibility statement with a link to the repository they have used in order that this statement can be published alongside their paper.
- **Author contributions:** Manuscripts must include a statement of each author's contribution, ideally following the [CRedIT taxonomy \(Brand et al. 2015\)](#) (see below) For posthumous authorships, where an author has contributed sufficiently to warrant authorship but has died before they can approve the final version of the manuscript, we suggest following [Teixeira da Silva and Dobránszki \(2015\)](#). We ask that authors include a statement in the Author Contributions section that the authorship is posthumous and to make it clear which aspects of the work the author was unable to take responsibility for. The statement will acknowledge and credit a deceased researcher's work and contributions while safeguarding their legacy so that they are not associated with any work that was beyond their control.
- **Author biography:** Each author submits a brief paragraph about themselves that may include their current position, information on the university and speciality they are currently studying or graduated from, their field of interest, and any awards received. Place an email address at the end of the paragraph.

- **Abstract:** A summary of the main findings of the paper. Maximum of 300 words for research, review, annotated checklists and threat listings papers and 150 words for Short Notes. Abstracts may also be written in te reo Māori and ta re Moriori, provided it is accompanied by an English translation.
- **Keywords:** Up to ten keywords. (five for Short Notes)
- **Main text:** The main headings will normally be: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. It is permitted to have a combined Results and Discussion section for Short Notes and Annotated Checklist. For Review Papers, there will be some differences in main text due to their nature. See below for guidelines for reporting phylogenetic methods.
- **References:** See below for referencing style for Perspectives in Biodiversity. It is the author's responsibility to maintain accurate and up-to-date referencing and citations. Contact ePress (epress@unitec.ac.nz) if you require further instructions on referencing.
- **Figure legends:** Should be presented after the references in the initial submission.
- **Figures:** These can be photographs, line drawings, maps or graphs and must be submitted initially on separate pages and numbered to follow the order they appear in the text. Figures must be clear and easy to interpret. Colour figures are acceptable as this is an online publication. Sources must be credited if the figures do not belong to the author(s). See below for guidelines for creating phylogenetic figures.
- **Tables:** Each table should be on a separate page after the reference section, numbered with Arabic numerals, in the same order as they are referred to in the text of the paper, and with a short title or caption at the top. Horizontal lines should only be used at the top and bottom of the table and between the headings and the body of the table.

Reporting phylogenetic method and figures

Phylogenetic methods

Methods used for sequence analysis must be reported in full along with citations and specifications of the software used in a separate subheading under Methods entitled, for example, "Phylogenetic Analysis". All parameter values and settings for each analysis must be detailed to enable reproducibility (if default values were used, this should be stated).

Alignments to build phylogenies should be produced with an appropriate alignment algorithm (e.g., MAFFT, MUSCLE). The choice of substitution model or partitioning scheme for the phylogenetic analysis should be based on a best-fit analysis conducted in a program such as PartitionFinder or JModelTest2 using either BIC or AIC to assess model fit.

Phylogenetic trees should be reconstructed using an appropriate tree-building algorithm such as maximum likelihood and/or Bayesian inference. The phylogenetic analysis program (e.g., MEGA, GARLI, PHYLIP, RAxML, IQ-TREE, MrBayes, BEAST) used to create the tree should be reported. Any calibrations to date the tree should be given with citations and/or explanations.

Phylogenetic figures

Statistical support for nodes in any phylogenetic tree figures must be reported (i.e., posterior probabilities and/or bootstrap values with MCMC search sample or replicate numbers reported in text), and tree branch lengths (e.g., time, substitutions per site, coalescence units) properly described in tree figure captions. Figure captions should also detail the type of tree that is presented (ML best tree, Bayesian maximum clade credibility tree, etc.) along with the gene regions it is based on. Tips of the phylogenetic tree should be edited to show relevant but concise information on the sample (e.g., sample ID, GenBank/SRA accession number, or location etc.). Trees should be edited and produced in a tree-viewing software like FigTree or Archaeopteryx. Further processing for publication-ready figures may be performed in software such as Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator. Trees should be saved as either a high-quality JPEG, PNG, or PDF file.

Examples of reference formatting

- Journals:** Abramsky, Z., Rosenzweig, M. L., Subach, A. (2002). Measuring the benefit of habitat selection. *Behavioral Ecology*, 13(4): 497–502. <https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/13.4.497>
- Adam, R. D. (1991). The biology of *Giardia* spp. *Microbiological Reviews*, 55(4): 706–732. <https://doi.org/10.1128/mr.55.4.706-732.1991>
- Books:** Adams, L. (2009). *Lizard action plan for Poneke Area, Wellington Conservancy 2009–2014*. Wellington: Department of Conservation. 31 pp.
- Armstrong, D. P., Hayward, M. W., Moro, D. & Seddon, P. J. (eds) (2015). *Advances in reintroduction biology of Australian and New Zealand fauna*. Victoria, Australia: CSIRO Publishing.
- Book sections:** Atkinson, I. A. E. (1978). Evidence for the effects of rodents on the vertebrate wildlife of New Zealand islands. In: Dingwall, P. R., Atkinson, I. A. E., Hay, C. (eds), *The Ecology and Control of Rodents in New Zealand Nature Reserves*. Department of Lands and Survey Information Series No 4. Wellington: Department of Lands and Survey, pp 7–30.
- Green, C. J. (2002). Recovery of invertebrate populations on Tiritiri Matangi Island, New Zealand following eradication of Pacific rats (*Rattus exulans*). In: Veitch, C. R., Clout, M. N. (eds), *Turning the tide: the eradication of invasive species*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK: IUCN SSC Invasive Specialist Group.
- Reports:** Aikman, H., Miskelly, C. (2004). *Birds of the Chatham Islands*. Wellington: Department of Conservation. 129 pp.
- Anderson, R. (1984). *Loss of wildlife habitat in Northland 1978–83, with notes on recently identified wildlife values*. New Zealand Wildlife Service, Dept. of Internal Affairs. 46 pp.
- Thesis:** Ball, J. J. (2023). *Foraging ecology and habitat suitability of the critically endangered New Zealand fairy tern or tara iti (*Sternula nereis davisae*) in Northland, New Zealand*. Master of Science (MSc) in Conservation Biology Masters. Massey University, 2023. Available online: <http://hdl.handle.net/10179/18220> [Accessed 2023]
- Browne, C. M. (2005). *The use of dogs to detect New Zealand reptile scents*. MSc Massey University. Available online: <https://mro.massey.ac.nz/handle/10179/5093> [Accessed 2018]
- Websites:** BirdLife International (2018). *Sternula nereis*, 2018. Available online: <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-2.RLTS.T22694691A132568135.en> [Accessed 2018]
- Department of Conservation (2020). *Biodiversity inventory and monitoring toolbox*, 2020. Available online: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/biodiversity-inventory-and-monitoring/> [Accessed 2020]

CRediT

Credit (Contributor Roles Taxonomy) lists 14 specific roles that contributors can provide to the research output. The idea came from collaborative workshop led by Harvard University and the Wellcome Trust in 2012. This list was input from researchers, the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and publishers, including Elsevier, represented by Cell Press. CRediT offers authors the opportunity to share an accurate and detailed description of their contributions to the published work.

- The **corresponding author** is responsible for ensuring that the descriptions are accurate and agreed by all authors.
- The role(s) of all authors should be listed, using the relevant categories below.
- Authors may have contributed in multiple roles.
- CRediT in no way changes the journal's criteria to qualify for authorship.

Term	Definition
Conceptualisation	Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims.
Methodology	Development or design of methodology; creation of models.
Investigation	Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection.
Data curation	Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later re-use.
Software	Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components.
Formal analysis	Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyse or synthesize study data.
Validation	Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs.
Visualisation	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/data presentation.
Writing – original draft	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically writing the initial draft (including substantive translation).
Writing – review & editing	Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work by those from the original research group, specifically critical review, commentary or revision – including pre- or post-publication stages.
Project administration	Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution.
Funding acquisition	Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication.
Resources	Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools.
Supervision	Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, including mentorship external to the core team.