

TERRA LATINOAMERICANA

Journal of the Mexican Society of Soil Science

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS



SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Submission of electronic version for publication should be sent to Open Journal Systems (OJS):

<http://www.terralatinoamericana.org.mx/index.php/terra>

The manuscript must be accompanied by a Letter of Submission addressed to the editor in which the authors of the document manifest that they agree with the content and with their level of authorship as expressed in the manuscript. The Letter of Assignment of Rights must also be attached. Propose the names of three possible reviewers, experts in the field, who do not belong to the same institution as the authors.

If the topic of the submitted manuscript is related to the journal and meets our standards as well as quality requirements, a confirmation letter will be sent including a registration number, which must be used in all correspondence thereafter.

Work published or in process of review in other journals will not be accepted. If they have been presented at conferences, they should not have an ISBN.

The editing will be carried out by the OJS system, only with the responsible author.

TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS

The Journal *Terra Latinoamericana* welcomes papers in Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English, that present original research findings related to Soil Science, Water Management, and Environmental Sciences. The contributions may be Scientific Papers, Research Notes, Essays, and Critical Reviews. The Journal also publishes Letters to the Editor, Profile, and Book Reviews.

Scientific Papers must be generated from original research in which the scientific method was implemented to accept or reject a given hypothesis.

Research Notes are based on experimental work that presents new methodological aspects or important results that the author wants to publish before the research project is completed.

Critical Reviews are articles in which the author reports the State of the Art of a given topic of interest to the scientific community, based on the published literature, and establishing conclusions regarding the analysis of the published data.

In the **Letter to the Editor** section, *Terra Latinoamericana* will publish those that are considered of interest and present opinions or comments on a topic. This section's objective is to encourage discussion on topics published in this journal or those of interest to the scientific community.



Book reviews are a section that aims to announce and preview books that may be of interest to soil scientists.

The **profile** is biographical writing, it mentions a series of data related to professional experience, it presents information about the character and personality of the person.

Manuscripts sent must take into account these instructions and will be reviewed by the editorial committee or by a peer reviewer they appoint.

STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE MANUSCRIPT

The **scientific articles** and **research notes** must consist of the following sections: 1) Title in English, title in Spanish; 2) Author(s); 3) Institution(s) and affiliation address of the authors; 4) Summary; 5) Index words; 6) Summary in Spanish; 7) Palabras clave; 8) Introduction; 9) Materials and Methods; 10) Results and Discussion; 11) Conclusions; and 12) References. The Editorial Committee may accept some modifications to this structure if they are appropriate to the content of the article.

Critical reviews must contain the following sections: 1) Title in English, title in Spanish; 2) Author(s); 3) Institutions where the work was done and affiliation addresses of the authors; 4) Summary; 5) Index words; 6) Summary in Spanish; 7) Palabras clave; 8) Introduction; 9) Development of the subject, with the subtitles esteemed convenient; 10) Discussion if pertinent; 11) Conclusions; and 12) References.

Book reviews and **letters to the editor** do not have a defined format, but they should not exceed two pages and should follow the style of the template (Times New Roman font, number 12, and line spacing 1.15).

All work to be sent for possible publication in this journal must be accompanied by a **letter of**

intent addressed to the Editor, including a brief description of the most important findings and indicating the **institution**, **address**, telephone number, and **email** of EACH author and identifying to the corresponding author with whom the journal will maintain contact. Besides, a **letter of transfer of rights** must be included in an official format that includes the name and corresponding institutional logos. Said letter will be addressed to the Editor, where the exclusivity to edit, reproduce, distribute and publicly transmit the contribution submitted for publication in the Terra Latinoamericana Magazine is granted. Letters must be written in **Times New Roman 12**, spacing 1.15).

The contribution must be sent through the OJS platform, filling in the metadata corresponding to ALL authors without omitting: Institution, address, email and **ORCID**. The work must be sent filling in the template available, single-spaced, with 2.5 cm margins on all four sides and with numbered lines. The pages, including those of the tables and figures, will be numbered progressively. The text should not exceed 20 pages, for a scientific article, and 8, for a scientific note, including tables and figures. In the first version, each table or figure must be inserted in the text.

The tables and figures will only have the essential information and in no case will they repeat the data presented in another way. The units of the International System of Units and Measures (SI) will be used. For example, instead of ppm, mg kg⁻¹, or mg L⁻¹ will be used. Space is left between the number and the unit of measure (5 m, 42 °C). There is no space between the number and the unit when it comes to percentages, angles, and measures of longitude or latitude (45°, 15%, 30° 15' 5" N). Spaces are used to divide large numbers into groups of three, both to the left and right of the decimal point (143 570 and 21.345 678). Four-digit numbers are written without space and a comma. Nouns are not mixed with the units of measure (correct: The water content is 23 mL kg⁻¹; incorrect: The content is 23 mL H₂O kg⁻¹).



The rounding of values follows three simple rules: 1) If the first two digits to be discarded are less than 50, the previous digit does not change. Example: 2.34489 rounds 2.34. 2) If the first two digits to be discarded are greater than 50, add 1 to the previous number. Example: 2.34617 rounds 2.35. 3) If the first two digits to be discarded are 50, 1 is added to the previous number if it is odd and it is not changed if it is even. Examples: 3.3350 and 3.3450 round to 3.34. If there is only one figure and it is less than 10, it must be written in words (four ecotypes, six regions, nine localities); unlike 16 trees, 128 countries. However, if this figure is accompanied by a unit of the International System of Units and Measures, it must be expressed as a number (2 mL, 8 ng, 10 h).

The figures must be in a format that allows subsequent modifications, regarding the size of the numbers on the axes, the thickness of the lines on them and the text of the legends. All work must be written in Times New Roman font (including numbering on axes, content and figure legends). The Title in Spanish and English will be written in size 14. The rest of the text must be written in font size 12, except the Cited Literature and descriptions of tables and figures, which are in size 9; the footer and footer are in size 8.

PUBLICATION FORMAT

In TERRA LATINOAMERICANA, the papers are published in the format described below; however, manuscripts should be prepared as indicated in the previous section and considering, as far as possible, the instructions in this section and the template. The editorial staff of the magazine will prepare the final version for printing on the pages of the magazine.

TITLE. The title must be centered in boldface lowercase letters, except for the first letter of the initial word, **Times New Roman 14**. Under the title in English write a title in Spanish; lowercase, except the first letter of each content word, centered,

boldface, **Times New Roman 14**. For the headline (cornice) of the pages, a short title of 60 letters or less must be provided.

AUTHORS. The names of the authors will be written in the following way: First, the author's name or names are written, continuing with the surnames. Authors with two surnames must include them with a hyphen. Titles and degrees will be omitted. The first letters of the name (s) and surname (s) will be written in capital letters. The names of the authors will be written in **Times New Roman 12** font, centered in bold, separated by commas, one space after the title in English. Each author must have a number in a superscript format indicating to which affiliation they belong. The corresponding authors will be identified by the symbol ‡ in superscript. Along with the name of all authors, the ORCID numbers must be included (<https://orcid.org/register>).

Sponsoring institution(s) and authors' addresses. The objective of this part of the article is to give the respective credit to the institution of labor affiliation and that the readers can contact the authors, if necessary. This identification will be written in lowercase, except for the initials, below the group of authors, aligned to the left and with **Times New Roman 8** font. At the beginning of each affiliation, there will be the number in superscript that relates it to one or more authors. Then, with the symbol ‡ in superscript and the author's email address for correspondence will be placed.

Footnotes. These may be used when it is necessary to identify additional information; they will be numbered progressively through the text. **They should be used only when indispensable.**

HEADINGS. The headings show diverse orders and the position of a section within the paper.

First-order headings: Centered, boldface type and uppercase **Times New Roman 14** font. Reserved for the main title of the paper.



data is available from the authors upon reasonable request and with the permission of [third party name].

Does not apply. If your manuscript does not contain any information, please indicate "Not applicable" in this section.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS. All financial and non-financial interests must be reported in this section. If you have no competing interests, please indicate "The authors declare that they have no competing interests" in this section.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS. For research articles with multiple authors, a short paragraph should be provided specifying their individual contributions. The following statements should be used (only the initial letters of the authors' name (s) and surnames, for example, if one of the authors is Tomas Rivas García, include TRG): "conceptualization, XX and YY.; Methodology, XX.; Software, XX.; Validation, XX, YY and ZZ.; Formal analysis, XX.; Research, XX.; Resources, XX.; Curation of data, XX.; writing: preparing the original draft, XX.; writing: review and editing, XX.; visualization, XX.; monitoring, XX.; project management, XX.; acquisition of funds, YY ", see CRediT taxonomy for an explanation of the term Authorship should be limited to those who have contributed substantially to the reported work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS. In this section, you can acknowledge any support provided that is not covered by the author's contribution. This may include administrative and technical support, or donations in kind (for example, materials used for experiments). All sources of funding for the reported research must be declared.

REFERENCES. The list of bibliographic references of the material cited in the text of the article, should be prepared according to the rules of the APA format that are detailed, with examples in the next section.

1. Articles in serial magazines, example:

Contreras-Hinojosa, J. R., Volke-Haller, V., Oropeza-Mota, J. L., Rodríguez-Franco, C., Martínez-Saldaña, T., & Martínez-Garza, A. (2003). Liming and phosphate fertilization in potato cultivation in an Andosol from Sierra Veracruzana. *Terra* 21(3), 417-426.

The initial of the proper name has been moved to the end of the surnames for all authors; surnames are written in full. It is common for English names to be written with two personal names and a surname; for example: L. J. Brown.

2. Articles in a non-periodical collective publication, with or without an editor, example:

Adams, R., Zavala, J., & Morales, F. (2008). Residual concentration of hydrocarbons in soil in the tropics. II: Impacts to fertility and reclamation. *Interciencia*, 33(7), 483-489.

a) with an editor

Turrent F., A. 1984. The agrosystems of the tropics. In E. Hernández (Ed.). *The agricultural systems of Mexico* (pp. 315-328). Postgraduate College.

b) no editor

Cortés F., J. I. 1984. The management of fruit trees in cold areas. In *The fruit and its perspective in Mexico* (pp. 181-192). CONAFRUT. Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources.

3. Technical bulletins or other non-periodic serials, example:

Hartemink, A. E. (2001). Publish or perish (6)-Soil science for pleasure. *Bulletin 100*, 50-56. International Unión of Soil Science.

4. Books, for example:

Martínez G., A. (1995). *Experimental designs: Methods and elements of theory*. Threshing

Marschner, H. (1995). *Mineral nutrition of higher plants*. Academic Press.



Avoid quoting statements that the entire audience knows. Citations are unnecessary in the following sentences; 1. Oil is an important source of environmental pollution (Pineda-Florez *et al.*, 2002; Rogel, 2003). 2. Corn is one of the three most consumed cereals in the world (FAO, 2005; SAGARPA, 2007).

Avoid thesis citations, conference proceedings and class notes. Cite mainly scientific articles. As much as possible, it is recommended to AVOID self-citations.

5. If the article you have cited has a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), write it down after the physical publication data. Example:

López-Alvarez, J. V., Aguilar-Larucea M., Arraiza-Bermudes, P., & León-Chicoe, B. (2009). Biodegradation of paper waste under controlled composting conditions. *Waste Management*, 29(5), 1514-1519. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2008.11.025>.

Other aspects of the manuscript

To refer to plants, animals, or other organisms, their common name is indicated, as well as their scientific name. This one with italics, considering the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria and the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants.

Here are some indications about the care and considerations that must be taken into account when preparing figures, tables, maps, etc.

The title of Table (s), Figure (s), and Map (s) must be written in English and Spanish

Tables must be numbered sequentially, with Arabic numerals and in the order as they appear in the text. Tables and figures are used to replace text,

and they should be clear, simple and concise. To do this, it is necessary to select the data so that only those that will be used to emphasize some aspect or explain others are presented. The data should be ordered in a way that is easy to interpret.

Relevant calls shall be included in the footer of the table. Asterisks will be reserved to indicate statistical significance at 5% (*) and 1% (**), respectively; it is recommended to include the mean standard error in the figures. Other notes will be marked with the following symbols, in this order: †, ‡, §, ¶, #, ††, ‡‡, ..., †††, ‡‡‡.

Maps and figures (including their respective subtitles) should not exceed one letter-size page, with the specified margins. The legend is written in large enough letters and numbers (lower case, except the first letter) so that they can be read when reduced by 30%, as well as the thickness of the axes and the inner lines. In a figure, what is important to highlight is the content and not the axes. Consequently, the thickness of the latter has to be less than that of the inner lines. The experimental points should be visibly marked with symbols that can be distinguished from each other, in black and white (avoid other fill and frame colors), for example: ○ ● □ ■ Δ ▲. To divide the axes, constant intervals must be chosen for each one.

The magnification of the photomicrographs should be indicated in the legend.

To avoid loss of quality in the figures and photographs, it is suggested that they remain linked to the program with which they were made. For example, Figure 1 was transferred into this document using a special paste from the MS Word Edit command ("Microsoft Office Excel Object Chart"), which allows editing. Figure 2 was copied as an object or image (normal copy and paste) and cannot be linked to its source program. For this reason, the size of the points or lines in the figure cannot be modified. Authors are suggested to include an additional copy in which the figures



The presentation of the tables is at the discretion of the authors, considering that they are explicit. It is recommended to include, if applicable, the coefficient of variation, the standard deviation and, in the case of separation of means, the least significant difference.

Format of chemical structures and mathematical equations

Chemical structures must be designed with a professional program such as ChemDraw. For mathematical equations insert the equation in the option of the Word program:

$$\alpha = 1,$$

The text following the equation does not correspond to a new paragraph. It should be written as regular text.

Statistical methods

Stocking separation procedures are often misused. This can result in incorrect scientific conclusions. Multiple comparisons of means (LSD) should be used only when treatments do not have a well-defined structure (e.g. studies comparing cultivars). Authors should be aware of the limitations of multiple comparisons of means tests when little information is available on the structure of treatments (Petersen, 1977; Little, 1978; Chew, 1980; Nelson and Rawling, 1983; Carmer and Walker, 1985). When the treatments present a logical structure, the orthogonal contrasts between them are used.

Additional information

For more information on the preparation of the manuscripts consult the following documents:

Alvarado L., J. (2009). *Redacción y preparación del artículo científico* (3a. ed.). Chapingo, México: Publicación Especial 11. Sociedad Mexicana de la Ciencia del Suelo y Colegio de Postgraduados, Agrociencia.

- APA style (American Psychological Association). (2009). *The basics of sixth edition APA style*. Accessed December 3, 2021, from <https://apastyle.apa.org/6th-edition-resources/basics-tutorial>
- ASA-CSSA-SSSA (American Society of America-Crop Science Society of America-Soil Science Society of America). (2018). *Publication Handbook and Style Manual*. Accessed August 18, 2018, from <https://www.soils.org/publications/journals/author-resources/style-manual>
- Carmer, S. G., & Walker, W. M. (1985). Pairwise multiple comparisons of treatment means in agronomic research. *Journal of Agronomic Education*, 14(1), 19-26. <https://doi.org/10.2134/jae1985.0019>
- Chew, V. (1980). Testing differences among means: correct interpretation and some alternatives. *HortScience*, 15(4), 467-470.
- Kramer, M. H., Paparozzi, E. T., & Stroup, W. W. (2019). Best practices for presenting statistical information in a research article. *HortScience*, 54(9), 1605-1609. <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI13952-19>
- Little, T. M. (1978). If Galileo published in HortScience. *HortScience*, 13(5), 504-506.
- Mari Mutt, J. A. (2005). *Manual de redacción científica*. Madrid, España: Universidad de Alcalá de Henares. Departamento de Ecología.
- Nelson, L. A., & J. O. Rawling. (1983). Ten common misuses of statistics in agronomic research and reporting. *Journal of Agronomic Education*, 12(1), 100-105. <https://doi.org/10.2134/jae.1983.0100>
- Petersen, R. G. (1977). Use and misuse of multiple comparison procedures. *Agronomy Journal*, 69(2), 205-208. <https://doi.org/10.2134/agronj1977.00021962006900020003x>
- Salisbury, F. B. (1998). Standardizing with SI units. *BioScience*, 48, 827-835.

PROOFS

The proofs will be sent to the authors to enable them to check correctness of the typesetting. They should be reviewed promptly and returned to the editorial office. No changes other than corrections should be made.

January, 2022

