

SELECTING APPROPRIATE JOURNAL

**FAMILIARIZING WITH the IN-HOUSE
STYLES OF SELECTED JOURNALS**

**KEY TO SUCCESSFUL MANUSCRIPT
SUBMISSION**

Sikstus Gusli

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Selecting appropriate
journal

How to find appropriate journal:

Some tips

- ▣ Quality of your data
- ▣ Journal reputation/quality (impact factor, H-index, where is it indexed, etc?)
- ▣ Who are the expected readers?
- ▣ Check acceptability through *Journal Finders*
- ▣ Check your references as a general guide
- ▣ Check the journal's favorite topics in the last 3 years
- ▣ Ask colleagues in the same field
- ▣ Publication fee

Quality of your data: *This is the key!*

- ▣ Is your data publishable
- ▣ Are your findings **new** things?
 - The “traffic light” principle:
 1. **Red** to **green** (from not known to known/new)
 2. **Green** to **red** (from known to doubt/unknown)
 3. **Green** to **green** (reproving the known) → Not acceptable!
 4. **Red** to **red** → Not acceptable!
- ▣ If 1 or 2, which journals would likely be interested?
 - Check sample related articles
 - Read the GFA

Journal reputation/quality

- ▣ **Journal rankings** to reflect the place of a journal within its field, the relative difficulty of being published in that **journal**, and the prestige associated with it.
- ▣ Scientific journal ranking (**SJR**) SCimago
- ▣ **SCimago vs Scopus:**
 - SCimago is publicly available; Scopus needs subscription.
 - **Scopus** is an abstracting and citation database owned by Elsevier, an international publication group. Just like Web of Science and Google Scholar, Scopus also provides citation information
- ▣ Check the quality in SCimago (SCR, Impact factor - generally journals with IF >2 is are very good, H-index, Quartile)
- ▣ The quartile: **Q1, Q2, Q3, or Q4**. Q1 indicates that the journal is in the top 25% of its **subject category**, while Q4 indicates it is in the bottom 25% of the journals in that category

Who are the expected readers?

- ▣ Many journals are technical & specific, such as *Geoderma*, *Soil and Tillage Research*, and *Plant Soil*
- ▣ Some journals are rather multidisciplines/less specific/more general, e.g. *Plos One*, *World Development*, *Nature*
- ▣ Other journals may be specific, but must be linked to development, e.g. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development*
- ▣ Although, journal distribution is now borderless (in the digital era), certain journals have more readers in certain countries → choose the right journal

Check acceptability through Journal Finders

Go to Journal Finders, for example:

- ▣ Elsevier JournalFinder,
- ▣ Springer Journal Suggester,
- ▣ Enago Open Access Journal Finder,
- ▣ Journal Selector.

Then:

- Upload title, abstract and subject area
- Check for acceptability and estimate time required for review process, etc.

Check your references

- ▣ Your references contain articles that come from different journals; you site them because they are relevant
- ▣ The journal(s) that you cite the most could be the best journal for your article

Check the journal's favorite topics in the last 3 years

- ▣ Google/google scholar it!
- ▣ Do not submit articles that are not within the interests of the journals
- ▣ This is often a helpful hint

Ask colleagues in the same field

Colleagues in the same field, especially those who have published a lot, are often very helpful to suggest the home journal for your article

Publication fee

- ▣ Some journals, like Soil and Tillage Research and Plant Soil accept both subscription (free publication fee, but paid off print) and open access (subject to publication fee, but free access)
- ▣ Other journals only accept open access. The charges vary from journal to journal

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Guide for Authors

- ❑ You must read and familiarize yourself with GFA of the target journal before writing the manuscript.
- ❑ GFA of good journals provides (nearly) everything you need to know about the journal.
- ❑ Disobeying GFA ends up with manuscript rejection
- ❑ Read the newest GFA version
- ❑ GFA is a complete help for you. It is absolutely necessary to read before preparing the manuscript
- ❑ Every journal has its own GFA. No standard GFA

Publishing an article in scientific journal is a **journey** involving **GFA** in all writing stages

GFA is like a map and complete information that guide you in the journey

Do not start writing your manuscript before reading GFA of the target journal

Here,
we will explore, why GFA of each
journal is important,

we will only focus on certain parts of
the selected GFAs (as examples) that
are often ignored/overlooked/not
understood by most beginners



Authorship matters must be solved before writing the manuscript, or even before starting the research

Plos One:

Who can be the authors?

To qualify for authorship, one should contribute to **all** of the followings:

1. Conception and design of the work, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
3. Final approval of the revision to be published
4. Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work

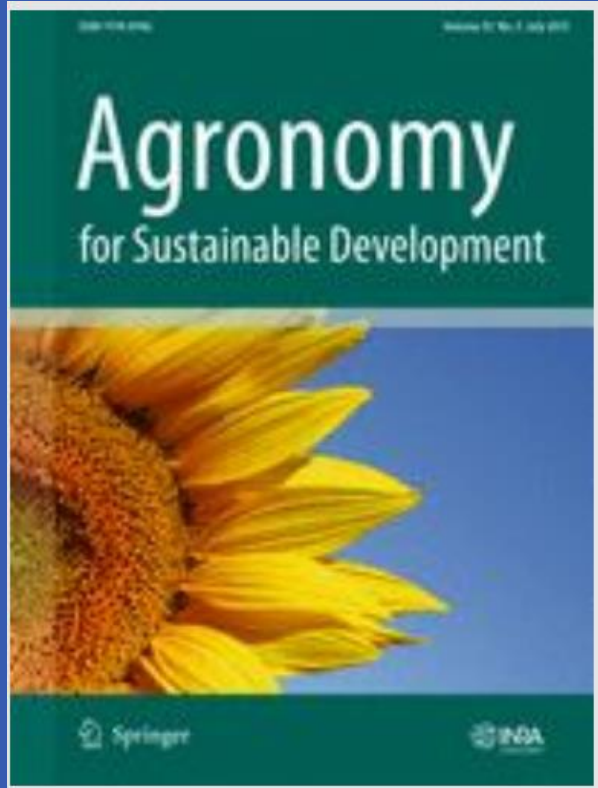
Borja, 2014 (Elsevier.com): Six things to do before writing your manuscript

1. Is your work **publishable**? (novelty/newness)
2. What **type** of manuscript to write?
3. Choose the **target journal**
4. Understand the **journal requirements**
5. Pay attention on the **article structure**
6. Understand publication **ethics**

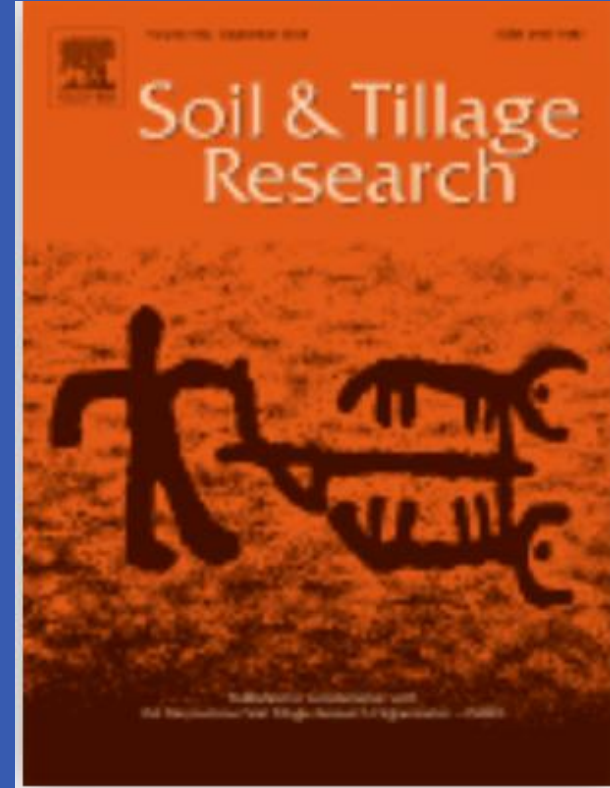
GFA can help on these six things

GUIDE FOR AUTHORS FOR:

*“AGRONOMY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT” (ASDE)
(SPRINGER)*



*“SOIL & TILLAGE RESEARCH”
(STR)
(ELSEVIER)*



WE COMPARE STYLES OF THESE TWO JOURNALS, AND SOME
ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES FROM **PLOSONE, AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS
& WORLD DEVELOPMENT**

General information about STR

- An international journal on research and development in soil tillage and field traffic, and their relationship with land use, crop production and the environment. Published in collaboration with the International Soil Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO).
- This ISTRO-affiliated journal examines the physical, chemical and biological changes in the soil caused by tillage and field traffic. Manuscripts will be considered on aspects of soil science, physics, technology, mechanization and applied engineering for a sustainable balance among productivity, environmental quality and profitability. The following are examples of suitable topics within the scope of the journal of Soil and Tillage Research: The agricultural and biosystems engineering associated with tillage (including no-tillage, reduced-tillage and direct drilling), irrigation and drainage, crops and crop rotations, fertilization, rehabilitation of mine spoils and processes used to modify soils. Soil change effects on establishment and yield of crops, growth of plants and roots, structure and erosion of soil, cycling of carbon and nutrients, greenhouse gas emissions, leaching, runoff and other processes that affect environmental quality. Characterization or modeling of tillage and field traffic responses, soil, climate, or topographic effects, soil deformation processes, tillage tools, traction devices, energy requirements, economics, surface and subsurface water quality effects, tillage effects on weed, pest and disease control, and their interactions.

TYPES OF ARTICLES: which one?

ASDE


- ▣ *Research articles,*
- ▣ *Review articles, and*
- ▣ *Meta-analyses*

The findings should be located at the interface of Agriculture and Sust. Development:
see Aims and Scope for specific topics

STR

- ▣ Original research papers (Regular Papers)
- ▣ Review articles
- ▣ Short Communications
- ▣ Book reviews

Description of types of STR paper



Original research papers should report the results of original research. The material should not have been previously published elsewhere, except in a preliminary form.

Review articles should cover subjects falling within the scope of the journal which are of active current interest. They may be submitted or invited.

A Short Communication is a concise but complete description of a limited investigation, which will not be included in a later paper. Short Communications should be as completely documented, both by reference to the literature and description of the experimental procedures employed, as a regular paper. They should not occupy more than 6 printed pages (about 12 manuscript pages, including figures, tables and references).

Book Reviews will be included in the journal on a range of relevant books which are not more than 2 years old. Book reviews are solicited by the Editors-in-Chief. Please contact one of the Editors-in-Chief. E-mail contact details at: http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaleditorialboard.cws_home/503318/editorialboard

Summarized ASDE key instructions

	Research article	Review article	Meta analysis
Sections	1. Introduction 2. Materials and methods 3. Results and discussion 4. Conclusions	Contents 1. Introduction 2. First section X. Conclusion	1. Introduction 2. Materials and methods 3. Results and discussion 4. Conclusions
Page numb.	<15 pages, Times 11, 1.5 sp	Unlimited	<15 pages, Times 11, 1.5 sp
Font & spac	Times 11, 1.5 spacing		
References	< 30; must have the DOI	Must have the DOI	Must have the DOI
Abstract	<300 words Structured in 3 parts: 1. Backgr/issues/hypot 2. Experimental 3. Results/novelty	<300 words Structured in 3 parts: 1. Background/issues 2. Major advances	<300 words Structured in 3 parts: 1. Backgrnd/issues/hypot 2. Experimental 3. Results/novelty
Cover letter	Must explain the novelty	Must expl. the interest	Must explain the novelty
Figs & tables	5 max incl. 2 tables max	Unlimited	5 max incl. 2 tables max
Color photo	Mandatory in the Introduction		
Fig. caption	> 3 sentences		
Fig. format	Y axis title horizontal; no symbol legend		

REQUIRED FORMAT FOR RES. ARTICLES of ASDE

GENERAL

Research articles should report the results of original research. The material should not have been previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Research articles should focus on one major discovery supported by 2-4 results.

NOVELTY

The **novelty**, or *difference of the major finding versus current knowledge* **should be clearly explained** in:

- the **Cover letter** to the Editor-in-Chief;
- the **Abstract**;
- the end of the **Results and Discussion** section;
- the **Conclusion** section.

To explain the novelty, authors should first state what is already known (current knowledge), then state what is the added value of the main finding. Novelty claims should be made in an affirmative way, using for instance “Here we show for the first time that ...”, or “This is the first...” Only articles that show an **outstanding added value** will be sent for **in-depth evaluation**.

Submission declaration and verification (*STR*)

Submission of an article implies that the work described **has not been published previously** (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' section of our ethics policy for more information), that it is **not under consideration for publication elsewhere**, that its **publication is approved by all authors** and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, **it will not be published elsewhere in the same form**, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

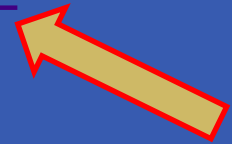
English (ASDE)

- ▣ All manuscripts should be written in **high-quality American English**.
- ▣ **Non-English native authors** should seek appropriate help from English-writing professionals before submission.
- ▣ The journal may ask authors to provide a **certificate from an English language proofreading service, ensuring** correct grammar and typographical error corrections (i.e., punctuation, spelling, inconsistencies...) to help authors present a clear and scientific message.

English (STR)

Language (usage and editing services)

Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, but not a mixture of these). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's WebShop.



Sections for ASDE

The manuscript should contain the following items (in the same order):

- Article title
- Full first and last **names of authors** with an asterisk "*" highlighting the **corresponding author**; postal addresses; e-mail address of the corresponding author
- **Abstract** (less than 300 words)
- List of **keywords** (maximum 10)
- 1. **Introduction** — In ASDE, Introduction must have 1-2 color photos
- 2. **Materials and methods** — In STR, Introduction cannot have photo or illustration
- 3. **Results and discussion** (including topical subsections - 3.1, 3.2...)
- 4. **Conclusion** — In ASDE, R & D must be in the same section
- **Acknowledgments** — In STR, R & D can be in different sections
- **Declaration on conflict of interest**
- **References**
- **Statement of data availability** (*see in section 11. below what is expected here*)

Other sections such as **annexes and appendices** are not accepted.

Separated "results" and "discussion" sections are not accepted.

General presentation (ASDE)

- ▣ The **text length** of research articles is limited to **15 pages**, excluding figures, tables and references.
- ▣ The number of literature **references** is **limited to 30**.
- ▣ All text should be written in a concise and integrated way, by focusing on major points, findings, breakthrough or discoveries, and their broad significance.
- ▣ All running text should be in **Times 11 or Times New Roman 11, with 1.5 line spacing**.
- ▣ **Figure and table captions** must be **self-explanatory** and they should be written in **Times 10 or Times New Roman 10**.
- ▣ **Lines**, as well as every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc. **should be numbered**.

General presentation (World Dev.)

- ▣ Papers should have a **minimum of 4,500 words** and **not exceed approximately 10,000 words**, exclusive of References, Endnotes, Figures and Tables, etc.
- ▣ Invited only **Review Articles** may be between **8,000 - 15,000 words**.
- ▣ Please ensure that the file uploaded is an editable file *i.e.* a word document rather than PDF.
- ▣ The Abstract, Acknowledgements, Text, References and Endnotes must be **double-spaced**.

Numbering the lines (STR) *(Important!)*

Manuscripts should be prepared with numbered lines, with wide margins and double line spacing throughout, i.e. also for abstracts, footnotes and references. Every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc. should be numbered. However, in the text no reference should be made to page numbers; if necessary, one may refer to sections.

Line numbers are also required by other journals

Use of wordprocessing software (STR)

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication>). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Title

ASDE:

The title of research articles **should be concise and informative** and focused on the main scientific discovery.

STR:

Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.

Title

PlosOne:

- ▣ Manuscripts must be submitted with both a **full title** and a **short title**, which will appear at the top of the PDF upon publication if accepted.
- ▣ Only the full title should be included in the manuscript file; **the short title will be entered during the online submission process.**
- ▣ The full title must be 250 characters or fewer. It should be specific, descriptive, concise, and comprehensible to readers outside the subject field. Avoid abbreviations if possible. Where appropriate, authors should include the species or model system used (for biological papers) or type of study design (for clinical papers).

Plos One Title style

Title

Include a full title and a short title for the manuscript.

Title	Length	Guidelines	Examples
Full title	250 characters	Specific, descriptive, concise, and comprehensible to readers outside the field	Impact of cigarette smoke exposure on innate immunity: <i>A Caenorhabditis elegans</i> model Solar drinking water disinfection (SODIS) to reduce childhood diarrhoea in rural Bolivia: A cluster-randomized, controlled trial
Short title	100 characters	State the topic of the study	Cigarette smoke exposure and innate immunity SODIS and childhood diarrhoea

Titles should be written in sentence case (only the first word of the text, proper nouns, and genus names are capitalized). Avoid specialist abbreviations if possible. For clinical trials, systematic reviews, or meta-analyses, the subtitle should include the study design.

Abstracts (*most journals*)

Abstract contains **complete elements**, of the article, i.e. short background, aim, method, results & discussion, and conclusion. Doing that, the Abstract becomes a stand alone section.

Abstract (ASDE)

- ▣ The research articles abstract of **less than 300 words** should **report concisely on the main scientific breakthrough**.
- ▣ The abstract **should not contain abbreviations nor literature references**.
- ▣ The abstract is structured in three parts:
 - The **Introduction section**, it thus gives the **background, the global and specific issues, and the hypothesis** (about 3-4 sentences).
 - The **Experimental section**, it gives a brief overview of the experiments or surveys (about 2-3 sentences).
 - The **Results and discussion section**. It gives the 1-2 major results using **precise trends and data**, then the **interpretation** of those results, then the **claimed novelty** of those results versus current knowledge, then the basic or **applied benefits** of those results for sustainable agriculture.
- ▣ Novelty claims should be made in an **affirmative way**, using for instance “Here we show that ...”, “**Here we demonstrate that ...**” or “**This is the first...**”

Abstract (STR)

A **concise and factual** abstract is required.

The abstract should state briefly the **purpose** of the research, the principal results and major conclusions.

An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to **stand alone**. For this reason, **references should be avoided**, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s).

Non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

An abstract page of *Soil and Tillage Research* Volume 140, July 2014, Pages 20–28

Visual examinations and soil physical and hydraulic properties for assessing soil structural quality of soils with contrasting textures and land uses

[Mansonia Pulido Moncada](#), [Letiane Helwig Penning](#), [Luis Carlos Timm](#), [Donald Gabriels^b](#), [Wim M. Cornelis](#)

Highlights

- Reliable semi-quantitative methods to assess soil structural quality.
- Visual examination methods as encouraging estimators of soil physical properties.
- SOC *per se* is not always well related to the soil structural quality.
- Evidence of tillage effect on soil structure from visual examinations.

Abstract

This study evaluates the use and the ability of visual examinations for assessing soil structural quality (SSQ) in soils with contrasting textures and under different land uses. The study searched for similarities in SSQ class between visual examinations and soil physical and hydraulic properties (soil organic carbon (SOC), aggregate stability, bulk density, porosity, plant available water capacity (PAWC) and unsaturated and saturated hydraulic conductivity), as well as the statistical relationships between them. The visual examinations used were the visual evaluation of soil structure (VESS), the visual soil assessment (VSA), the visual assessment of aggregate stability and the visual type of aggregates index. The latter is proposed as a new visual index for assessing SSQ. Samples were taken on a sandy loam and a silt loam soil, both under cereal monoculture (CM) and permanent pasture (PP), with conventional tillage and no tillage, respectively. Visual examination methods indicated significant differences between CM and PP in the silt loam soil ($0.01 < P < 0.05$), which were confirmed by significant differences in soil porosity and PAWC values. Wet sieving and the visual type of aggregates index were similar in identifying differences between land uses in both soils. Measurements of the visual type of aggregates index and of the hydraulic conductivity at different pressure heads were similar in indicating the soil structure condition of the soils. In the silt loam soil, the visual examinations were most related to properties such as SOC, PAWC, aggregate stability and porosity, whereas in the sandy loam soil they were most associated with water flow properties. The present study demonstrated that visual examinations are reliable semi-quantitative methods to assess SSQ and could be considered as promising visual predictors of soil physical properties ($0.33 < R^2 < 0.95$). Finally, from the dissimilarities in terms of soil quality found with the VSA, VESS and porosity compare to the amount of SOC, SOC should be used cautiously as a sole indicator for soil structural quality as has been proposed in the literature, because SOC *per se* is not always well related to soil structural quality.

Abbreviations

AC, air capacity; BD, bulk density; CM, cereal monoculture under conventional tillage; K_s , saturated hydraulic conductivity; $K_{(h)}$, unsaturated hydraulic conductivity; LP, laboratory permeameter; MacP, macropores; MicP, Pmicropores; MWD, mean weight diameter; PAWC, plant available water capacity; PP, permanent pasture; SOC, soil organic carbon; SWRC, soil water retention curve; TI, tension infiltrometer; TPV, total pore volume; VESS, visual evaluation of soil structure; VSA, visual soil assessment

Keywords

Visual soil evaluation; Type of aggregates; Soil hydraulic conductivity; Aggregate stability

Abstract (World Dev) 1

Abstracts, max 300 words, clearly written to convey the salient features of your paper, they should include:

- A sentence or two at the beginning to provide a basic introduction to your work, phrased so as to be understandable to anyone interested in development;
- One sentence that provides more detailed information of interest to practitioners and scholars working on development;
- One or two sentences clearly stating the specific question and the general problem your study will address;
- One to two sentences highlighting the methods/approach your study uses and if there is a distinctive aspect to the methods;
- One to two sentences summarising the main result (please use the phrase, "Our study finds," or "We show" or an equivalent);

Abstract (World Dev) 2

- Two sentences explaining the **scholarly and/or practical significance** of the main results and findings, especially as compared to what is already known; and finally,
- One to two sentences that situate the results and their **importance in a more general context**.

Keywords -- up to six (on the same page as the Abstract).

Highlights

Provide 3-5 highlights that clearly and succinctly convey the key findings of your paper. Each highlight should be no more than **125 characters** (without spaces).--on a separate page and doublespaced.

Graphical abstract (STR)

Although a graphical abstract is **optional**, its use is **encouraged** as it draws more attention to the online article. **The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership.** Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531×1328 pixels (h \times w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5×13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

Authors can make use of Elsevier's [Illustration Services](#) to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

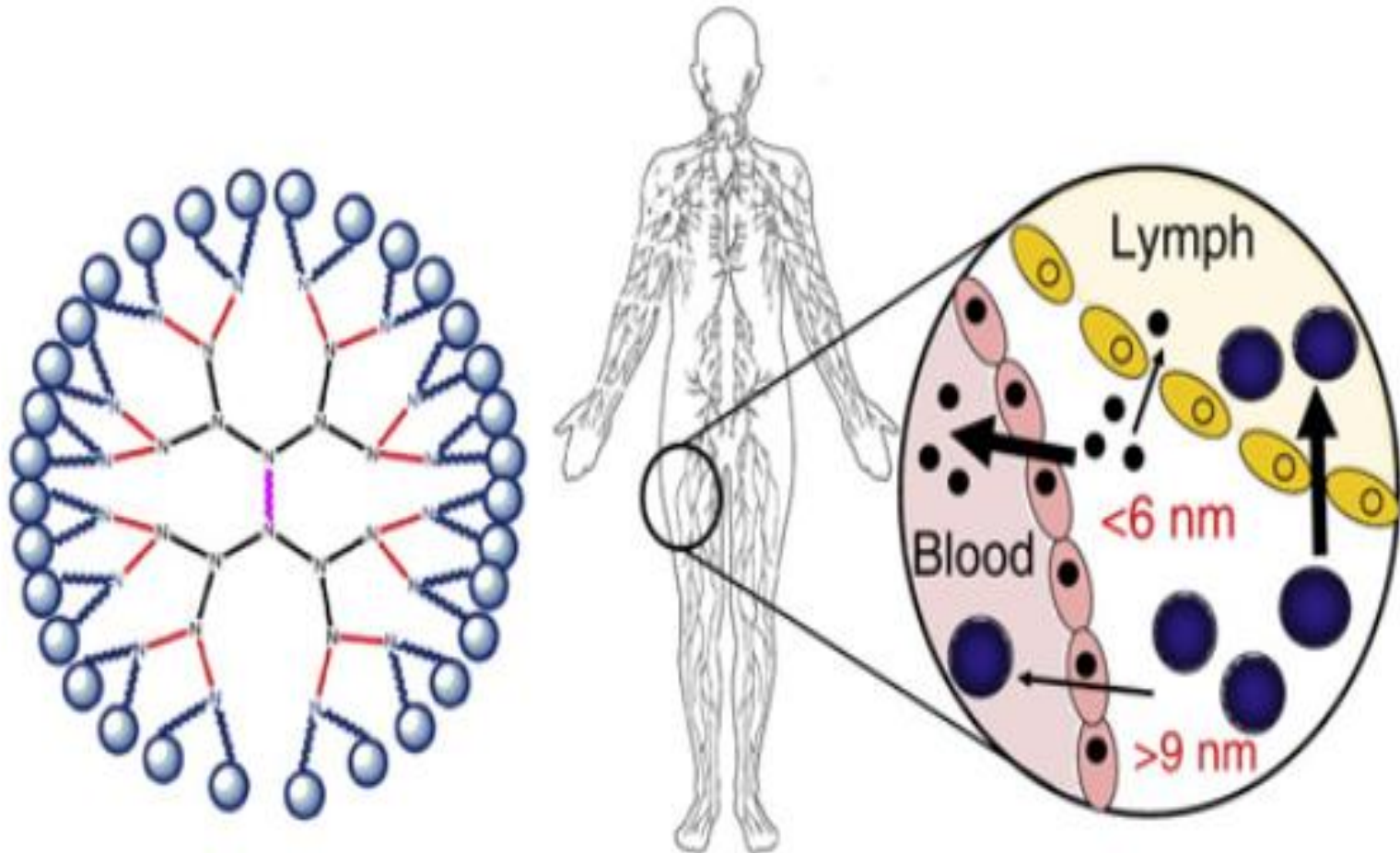
What is graphical abstract? (STR)

A Graphical Abstract is a single, concise, pictorial and visual summary of the main findings of the **article**. This could either be the concluding figure from the article or a figure that is specially designed for the purpose, which captures the content of the article for readers at a single glance. Please see examples below.

The following four slides show examples of graphical abstracts from various journals

Examples of graphical abstracts (1)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.addr.2011.05.016> ↗



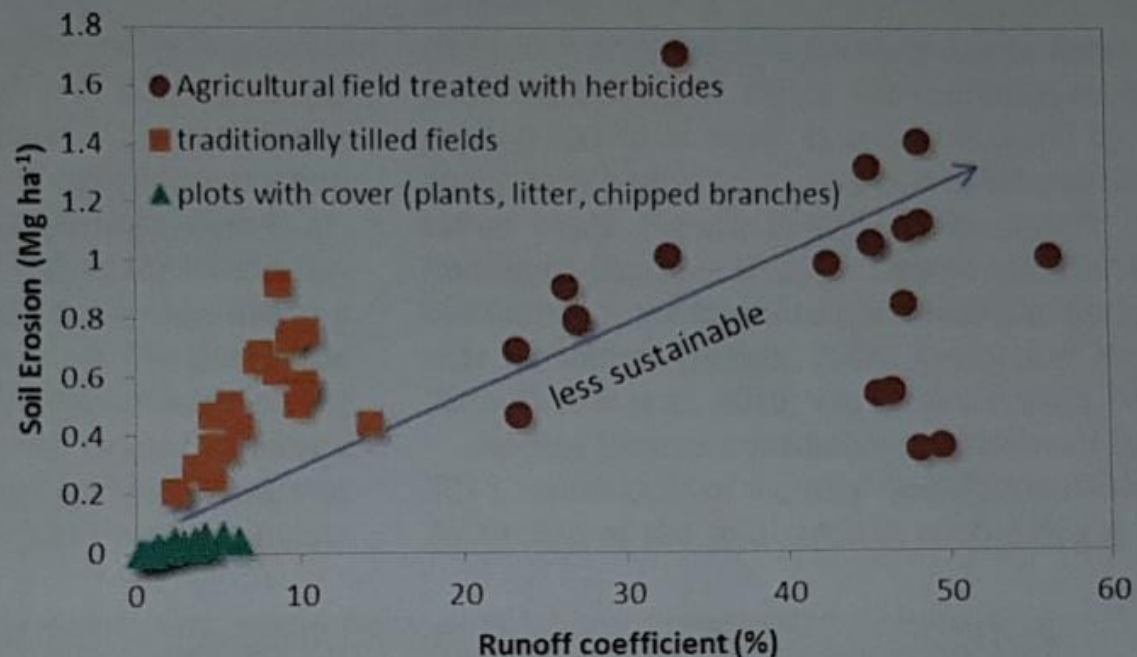
Examples of graphical abstracts (2)

Science of the Total Environment 551-552 (2016) 357-366 Elsevier

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prevailing management (tillage and herbicide treatment) keeps soil bare and prone to erosion
- Assessment of runoff and erosion for three management types (tillage, herbicide and covered)
- Herbicide treatment causes 1.8 and 45.5 times more erosion than tillage and covered respectively
- 60 rainfall simulation experiments showed tenfold lower erosion rates with covered soil
- Soil erosion was extremely high in herbicide treated orchards, even higher than in tilled orchards

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



Highlights (STR)

Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (**maximum 85 characters**, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view [example Highlights](#) on our information site.

Soil structural stability assessment with the fluidized bed, aggregate stability, and rainfall simulation on long-term tillage and crop rotation systems

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.still.2017.12.009>

Highlights

- Corn residue improved soil aggregate stability compared to soybean residue.
- No-till, compared to chisel tillage, improve soil cohesion in the surface layer.
- Soil organic C is a good predictor of both soil aggregate stability and cohesion.
- Chisel-tilled fields yielded 20 times more sediment loss than no-till fields.

ARTICLE STRUCTURE (STR)

Subdivision - numbered sections

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered **1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2**, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

Introduction

STR:

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

ASDE:

- ▣ As STR, but for both research and review articles, the Introduction section must contain 1-2 color figures or photos that reveal the main topic of the article to a wide audience
- ▣ Remember, for research article, **maximum only five total figures + tables allowed**

Material and Methods (STR)

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher.

Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference.

If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source.

Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Results and discussion

STR

- ▣ R & D may be separated or combined
- ▣ Results should be **clear** and **concise**.
(Clear illustrations and concise texts)
- ▣ Discussion:
 - It should **explore the significance of the results of the work**, not repeat them
 - **Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature**

ASDE

- ▣ R & D must be **combined in the same section**
- ▣ Separated "results" and "discussion" sections are not accepted.

Conclusions (STR)

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in:

- *a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone, or*
- *form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.*

But, for **ASDE**, Conclusion section must be provided

Appendices (STR)

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

Essential title page information (STR)

Title

Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.

Author names and affiliations

Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lowercase superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.

Corresponding author

Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication.
Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.

Present/permanent address

If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

Acknowledgements (STR)

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise.

List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated.

Abbreviations (ASDE)

- ▣ In general **abbreviations should be avoided** in the main text because they decrease article readability and impact.
- ▣ **Only 1-2 common abbreviations such as DNA or LED are accepted in the main text.**
- ▣ When their use is essential, abbreviations must be **explained when they first appear in the text.**
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- ▣ Individual data should be **weighted according to their level of precision when possible,**
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- ▣ This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman (1996).
- ▣ This effect has been widely studied (Abbott 1991; Barakat et al. 1995; Kelso and Smith 1998; Medvec et al. 1993). → No comma used

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Eden M, Gerke HH, Houot S (2017) Organic waste recycling in agriculture and related effects on soil water retention and plant available water: a review. *Agron Sustain Dev* 37 (2):21. doi:10.1007/s13593-017-0419-9

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Article by DOI

Coqueret V, Le Bot J, Larbat R et al. (2017). Nitrogen nutrition of tomato plant alters leafminer dietary intake dynamics. J Insect Physiol. doi:10.1016/j.jinsphys.2017.04.002

Book

Mengel K, Kirkby EA (1987) Principles of plant nutrition. International Potash Institute, Bern

Book chapter

García-Tejero I.F., Durán-Zuazo V.H., Muriel-Fernández J.L. et al. (2011) Water and Sustainable Agriculture. In: Water and Sustainable Agriculture. SpringerBriefs in Agriculture. Springer, Dordrecht, pp. 1-94

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Cartwright J (2007) Big stars have weather too.
IOP Publishing PhysicsWeb.

<http://physicsweb.org/articles/news/11/6/16/1>. Accessed 26 June 2007

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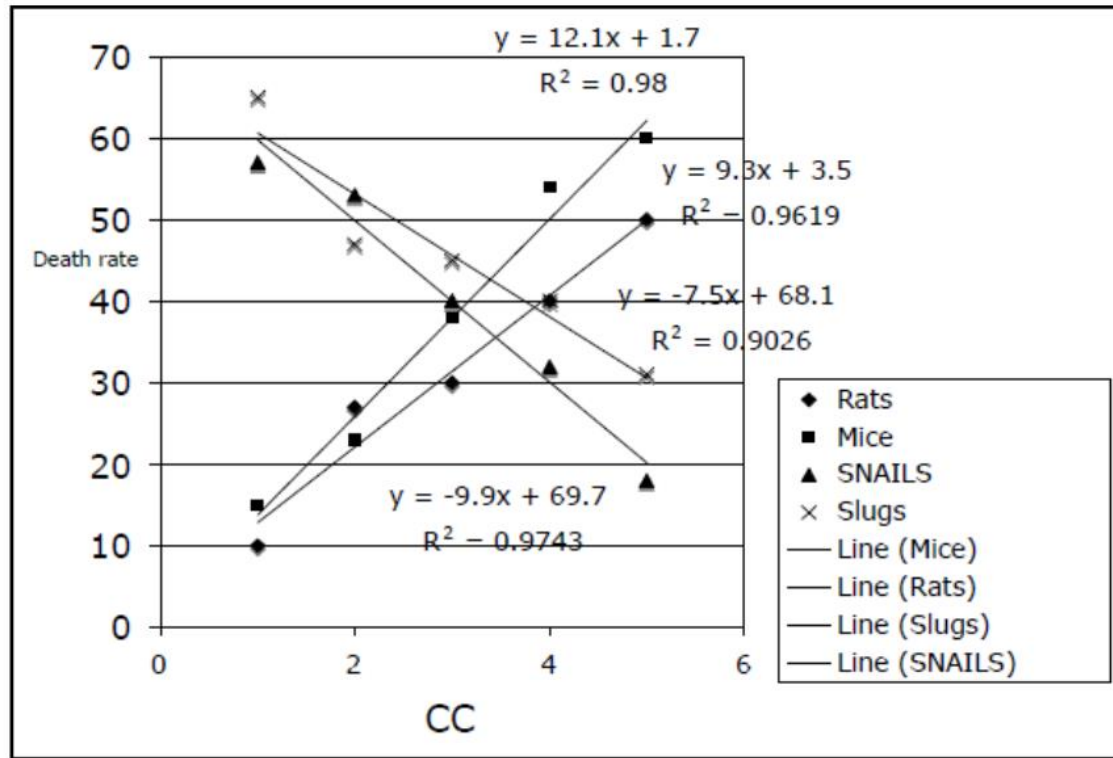
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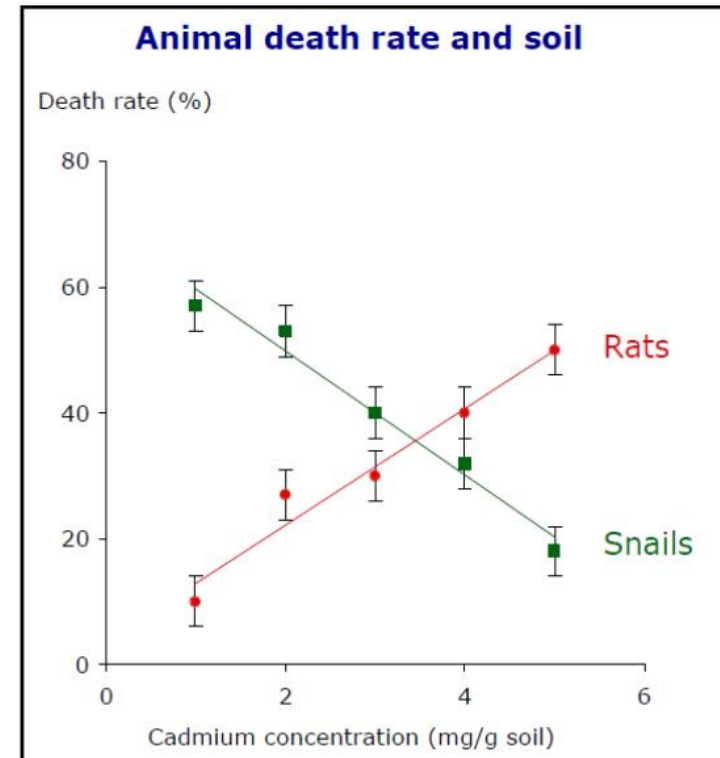
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- ▣ Follow internationally accepted rules and conventions: use the international system of units (SI). If other units are mentioned, please give their equivalent in SI. Abbreviate units of measure only when used with numerals.
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3

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Re Manuscript:

'Arbuscular mycorrhizal associations of the southern Simpson Desert'

P.J. O'Connor, F.A. Smith and S.E. Smith

Dear Dr Zhu,

Please find attached the manuscript "Arbuscular mycorrhizal associations of the southern Simpson Desert". This manuscript examines the mycorrhizal status of plants growing on the different soils of the dune-swale system of the Simpson Desert. There have been few studies of the ecology of the plants in this desert and little is known about how mycorrhizal associations are distributed amongst the desert plants of Australia. We report the mycorrhizal status of 47 plant species for the first time. The manuscript has been prepared according to the journal's Instructions for Authors. We believe that this new work is within the scope of your journal and hope that you will consider this manuscript for publication in the Australian Journal of Botany.

We await your response and comments of reviewers.

Yours sincerely,

P.J. O'Connor

From: Cargill & O'Connor, 2013

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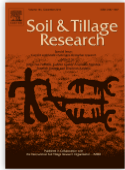
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Soil & Tillage Research

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