

Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica

Information for Authors

Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica started its publication in July 1953 following its predecessor “Chinese Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences” which was started in 1936. **Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica** is an official journal of the Chinese Pharmaceutical Society and is undertaken by the Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College. It focus on the current original articles, rapid communication and reviews on all aspects of pharmaceutical sciences and related areas from any part of the world, and published monthly. It is listed in Chemical Abstracts, Current Bibliography on Science and Technology, Abstract Journal, Index Medicus, Biological Abstracts, Excerpta Medica, International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Chinese Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Abstracts of Chinese Medicine, and many other abstracting and indexing services. **Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica** is a key journal and ranks in the front row of the list of Chinese natural scientific journals. It won the first national prize for Chinese journals.

1 Scope of submitted manuscripts

The Journal invites original articles and review papers dealing with pharmaceutical sciences. All aspects of pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemistry, natural products and pharmaceutical analysis are appropriate.

Review articles The articles should encompass the new and important aspects of study and describe the research results. Each article should no more than 8 000 words.

Original articles New, significant, innovative, and original findings are suitable as original articles. Each article should be no more than 6 000 words.

Communication The articles should contain new and important information that would be of interest to readers, making urgent publication desirable, with no more than 4 000 words in each article.

2 Submissions of manuscripts

You must register a form (<http://www.imm.ac.cn/acta.asp>) before you submit a paper. All manuscript submissions must be made through the journal's E-mail box: yxxb@imm.ac.cn.

Prior or duplicate publications are not accepted. All manuscripts, especially data, must not be published or submitted for publication elsewhere. The authors should make a full statement on submission about all submissions. Submitted manuscripts should be accompanied by a covering letter giving details of: 1) the title of the manuscript; 2) a statement that the manuscript has not been published in part or whole (except in the form of abstract) or is under consideration for publication elsewhere in any language.

The source of financial grants and other funding must be acknowledged, including a frank declaration of the authors' industrial links and affiliations. The contribution of colleagues or institutions should also be acknowledged.

3 Peer-reviewed

3.1 Manuscript receipt

Upon the receipt of the manuscript, the Editorial Office will immediately assign a code number, which is strongly recommended to use in subsequent correspondence. An acknowledgement of receipt letter will be sent to the corresponding author. After pre-reviewed by the editors, most of the submitted manuscripts will be sent to expert referees for peer-review. All manuscripts are subject to editorial modifications.

3.2 Revision

When the authors receive comments from the Editorial Office they should revise the manuscript, answer the comments one by one and indicate the page and line of each correction immediately. A revised manuscript will be considered a new submission if not returned to the Editorial Office within 3 months. Revised versions labeled with the manuscript code number should be sent by mail and by post separately.

3.3 Rejected manuscripts

If a manuscript is not accepted for publication, the authors will receive a decision letter along with the reviewer's comments. One of the rejected manuscripts will be returned to the author.

3.4 Proofreading

Checking the proofs is solely the authors' responsibility. Corrections are restricted to printer's errors. Answer all queries (in the interests of accuracy) on the proof. Make all corrections legibly (preferably by typing) in the margins. Use universally accepted proofreader's signs and symbols. If the authors feel that it is very important to include new information, insert it as a "Note added in proof" with the permission of the Editorial Office.

3.5 Copyright assignment form

Papers accepted for publication become copyright of Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica and authors will be asked to sign a transfer of copyright form. In signing the transfer of copyright it is assumed that authors have obtained permission to use any copyrighted or previously published material. All authors must read and agree to the conditions outlined in the transfer of the copyright form, and must sign the form. Articles cannot be published until a signed Copyright Assignment Form has been received.

You should return the proof and copyright assignment form within 3 days to the Editorial Office. If the time limit is exceeded, the publication of the article might be postponed.

3.6 Costs

A charge of RMB 180 (US \$ 22.5) per printed page or RMB 600 (US \$ 75) per colored page will be paid by the author on all manuscripts accepted.

4 Organization of the manuscript

Print the manuscript on standard paper (A4).

4.1 Title

The title must be informative, specific, and brief (< 30 words). Words should be chosen carefully for retrieval purposes.

4.2 Authors and affiliation

Authors should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content. Capitalize all the letters in the surname, spell out the given name in full, For example: LIU Xi-an. Any changes in authorship must be approved in writing by all authors. Please indicate the corresponding author's telephone number, fax number and E-mail address in the footnote. An asterisk (*) should be added to the right of the corresponding author's name. The affiliation is the institute or laboratory where the work was done. When there are two or more authors who belong to more than one affiliation, should list out all the affiliations.

4.3 Abstract

The abstract should be in structured form (200 – 250 words). It includes "Aim" (why do you study), "Methods", "Results" (main data), and "Conclusion" (in a definite, conclusive, and short statement).

4.4 Key words

Provide 3 – 8 key words or phrases. Use terms recommended by the US National Library of Medicine's Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) browser list at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/meshhome.html>. If a suitable MeSH term is not available, a more general term suitable for indexing may be used.

4.5 Text

1) **Introduction** It summarizes a concise study background using references. The purpose of carrying out the study should be described clearly.

2) **Materials** It provides main drugs, chemicals and instruments including manufacturers and specifications.

Drug nomenclature International Nonproprietary Names (INN) or generic names should be employed whenever possible. The first letter of the drug name should be lowercase for INN or generic names, but capitalized for proprietary names.

Species nomenclature The scientific name [genus, species (in italics) and authority] for all plants, animals and microorganisms, should be given. Simple chemical names may be used in certain places.

Experimental subjects indicate the grade of your animals and give the certificate number of the animal breeder. Rats and mice of at least Grade II should be reported. The sex, age, and body weight of tested animals or humans should be expressed as mean, standard deviation, and total range. Animal experiments should follow the instructions for the care and use provided by the institution. Human experiments may be performed only in accordance with the ethical standards provided by the responsible committee of the institution at which the work was

carried out.

3) Methods The section should offer technical information to allow the experiments to be repeated. Describe new methods or modifications.

4) Quantities, units, and numerical values SI units must be used. For example: length (m, cm, mm, μm , nm), mass (kg, g, mg, μg), volume (L, mL, μL), time (s, min, h, d), temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$, K), radiation (Bq, dpm), concentration [$\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\text{mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, $\text{mg} \cdot \text{mL}^{-1}$, $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{mL}^{-1}$, % (v/v), % (w/v)]. Physical quantities are printed in italic type, for example, t/h (t/h). A solidus (/) should not be followed by a multiplication sign or a division sign unless parentheses are inserted to avoid any ambiguity. When an Arabic number precedes an SI unit, the unit symbol should be used rather than the full name of the unit, for example, 1 min (one minute), 2 h (two hours). No unit is required for relative molecular mass (M_r).

5) Abbreviations must be spelled out in full at their initial appearance, followed by the abbreviation in parentheses. The routes of administration may be abbreviated, for example, intravenous (iv), intramuscular (im), intraperitoneal (ip), subcutaneous (sc), intracerebroven-tricular (icv), intraarterial (ia), per os (po), intragastric gavage (ig).

6) Effective digits The effective digits are determined by the variation within the sample, which is one-third of the standard deviation. For example: (4.8 ± 0.3) kg (not 4820 ± 340.8 g). Use 2% - 6% (not 2 - 6%), $5 \times 10^4 - 7 \times 10^4$ (not $5 - 7 \times 10^4$), 2 mm \times 3 mm \times 4 mm (not 2 \times 3 \times 4 mm).

7) Tables and figures Each table or figure should be self-explanatory (intelligible without reference to the text). Avoid repetitions of data in the text, tables, and figures. Tables are preferable to figures, especially if the figure is a simple histogram. Indicate the number and character of observations and subjects. Indicate what the n was.

Tables are numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. The title should immediately follow the table number, at the head of the table. Each table should give each column a short or abbreviated heading, in which the quantity and the unit are usually separated by a solidus (/). More than one solidus is not allowed in a single item. If an experimental condition is the same for all of the tabulated experiments (e. g., the n), give this information in a statement accompanying the table.

Figures Freehand or typewritten lettering is unacceptable. Choose the intervals so that the interpolation will permit accurate evaluation of the points. The symbols and curves can be identified in the figure itself or in the legend. Broader lines should be drawn for curves than for the axes. Avoid wasting spaces. Combine related curves in a single figure when possible. A composite of curves will save space and convey more information. Do not extrapolate the curves, nor extend the axes far beyond the contents. When feasible, curves should be transformed into straight lines with the aid of logarithm, reciprocal, probit, logit, etc. Indicate the scales by short index lines; repeat these index lines on the opposite sides unless more than one scale is used. In general, the height: width ratio of figures should be 2:3.

Photographs must be of the highest quality with good contrast. Color photographs are welcome. With photomicro-graphs, crop to show only the essential parts: a second small photomicrograph at higher magnification is usually more informative than a single large one. Scale markers (e. g., 1 μm) should be put inside the photomicrographs. Briefly explain the symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters in the illustrations. Identify the method of staining and magnification of the photomicrographs (e. g., HE stain, $\times 900$).

Maximum width of table and figure should be 8 cm (or 10 - 17 cm for two-column width). Please use only one size of writing in any one diagram.

8) Nomenclature used for chemical compounds shall be in accordance with the nomenclature rules formulated by IUPAC. Alternatively, naming may conform to the nomenclature in the index of *Chemical Abstracts* or the Ring Index. Stereochemical information (*cis*, *Z*, *R*, etc.), locants (*N*-methyl, α -amino), and symmetry designations (C_{2v}) should also be italicized. Chemical formula (e) should be numbered with boldface Arabic numerals (e. g., 1). Abbreviations such as Me, Et, *n*Bu, *i*Pr, *s*Bu, *t*Bu, and Ph (not ϕ) may be used. General substituents should be indicated by R^1 , R^2 (not R_2 , which means 2R), or R, R'. The spatial arrangement of the substituents should be indicated by hatched lines or a wedge. A minus sign must be as long as the crossbar of a plus sign.

9) Confirmation of structure Adequate evidence to establish structural identity must accompany all new compounds that appear in the Experimental Section of *Original Articles* and *Communications*. Generally, the

physical and chemical parameters of new compounds should be given in the following order; m. p. (b. p.), $[\alpha]_D$; UV-vis λ_{max} ; IR ν , ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR; MS m/z ; elemental analyses or HRMS data. List only IR that is diagnostic for key functional groups.

10) Statistical methods should be described when they are used to verify the results. Suitable techniques should be chosen for the statistical treatments, for example, t-test (group or paired comparisons), chi-square test, Ridit, probit, regression (linear, curvilinear, or stepwise), correlation, analysis of variance (ANOVA), analysis of covariance, etc. Only homogeneous data can be averaged. Standard deviations are preferred to standard errors. Give the number of observations and subjects (n).

Identify statistical significance by superscripts in front of the probabilities (P): * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$ vs A; * $P > 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$ vs B;

Values such as ED_{50} , LD_{50} , IC_{50} should have their 95% confidence limits calculated and compared by weighted probit analysis (Bliss and Finney). The word “significantly” should be replaced by its synonyms (if it indicates extent) or the P value (if it indicates statistical significance).

11) Results and discussion emphasize or summarize only important observations. Give absolute values, not merely percentages, particularly for the control values. Present your results followed by tables or figures. Reserve extensive interpretations of the results for the discussion section. The discussion section should deal with the interpretations of your results. Emphasize any new and important findings and relate your results to other studies. Discuss the shortcomings in your experiments. New hypotheses and recommendations may be proposed when warranted.

12) Acknowledgments may briefly include acknowledgement of assistance from: i) contributors that do not warrant authorship; ii) technical help; and iii) material support.

4.6 References

References must be verified by the present authors against the original documents. References are numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. When cited in the text, reference numbers are superscript, in brackets. Avoid using abstracts as references. “Unpublished data”, “classified periodicals”, and “personal communications” can not be used as references. Old references should be replaced with updated ones. Papers accepted but not yet published may be used as references.

The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the “List of Journals Indexed” in Index Medicus (www.nlm.nih.gov). List all authors, but if the number exceeds 3 give 3 followed by et al. Examples follow.

Books and other monographs conference proceedings, conference paper scientific or technical report and dissertation

[1] Bernstein J. Polymorphism in Molecular Crystals [M]. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2002;435 –439.

Standard journal article

[2] Zanzonico PB. Internal radionuclide radiation dosimetry: a review of basic concepts and recent development [J]. J Nucl Med, 2000,41:297 –308.

Patent

[3] Wasical Wasical JT, Garvey D, Holladay MW, et al. 7A-Heterocycle substituted hexahydro-1 H-pyrrolizine compounds useful in controlling chemical synaptic transmission; US, 5733912 [P]. 1998-03-31.

Electronic material

[4] Christine Christine M. Plant physiology: plant biology in the Genome Era [J/OL]. Science, 1998,281: 331 –332[1998-09-23]. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/collection/anatmorp>.

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