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Cover: Female *Lycalopex vetulus* (Carnivora, Canidae), monitored by the Programa de Conservação Mamífero do Cerrado. Photo: Frederico Gemesio Lemos - UFG/PCMC

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OVERVIEW

***Oecologia Australis* publishes papers in Ecology and related topics, without any cost to authors, and with complete open access content to all readers.** Submission of articles is electronic, running directly from our website (www.oecologiaaustralis.org) via submission form. **Manuscripts are accepted in three languages: Portuguese, English and Spanish. In 2014, *Oecologia Australis* has two new features: 1) the possibility of submitting the manuscript with simplified formatting and 2) the possibility of simplified evaluation if the manuscript has already been reviewed by other indexed journal and re-submitted version was rejected by editor.** To start the process, the corresponding author should register and follow guidelines for submission.

It is necessary the inclusion of Cover Letter in the submission process, clearly manifesting:

- (1) The agreement of all authors (if written in collaboration) with the publication;
- (2) That it is not already published elsewhere;
- (3) That it is not simultaneously submitted in other journal;
- (4) At least 5 (five) independent referees with institutional address and e-mail;
- (5) The letter must be signed by all authors and sent as digital file to the journal, by using “supplementary files” field in the submission form.

The Cover Letter indicates that authors acknowledge the authorship of the manuscript and agree with the rules presented here. **The submission will not be considered without the inclusion of the letter.** In the case of a manuscript previously reviewed by other indexed journal – only for those who have received at least one favorable opinion for publication, were revised, and still rejected by the editor –, the Cover Letter must be accompanied by: (1) the editorial decision e-mail with editor comments, (2) referees' reviews, (3) the revised version of the manuscript and (4) a response letter to referee comments or the manuscript file clearly showing the changes made. The submission of the original version of the manuscript, although optional, is recommended when the manuscript passed through great changes.

All submitted manuscripts will be evaluated in a double-blind peer-review process, or passing through a shorter way, reviewed by an editor and possibly other referee, if it has already revised previously in other indexed journal. If accepted, the article will be published in following issues, respecting a schedule defined by the editors concerning topic relevance, article type, and submission/acceptance order. The content of Opinions does not reflect the point of view of *Oecologia Australis*; it is civil and intellectual responsibility of authors. Published articles are free of charge for authors and fully available/indexed in Google, Google Scholar, Scopus / Elsevier, SEER / IBICT, Scientific Commons, and Dialnet Latindex databases.

SECTIONS

Original Articles

Original articles should present novel results Ecology research. Emphasis is placed on concise, clear articles documenting important ecological phenomena, hypothesis testing, the development of new techniques and new approaches. **We discourage submission of articles that are purely descriptive.** Manuscripts for this section should be divided into Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements and References. **Maximum length allowed is 6,000 words** (Introduction to References, Figures and Tables legends, and Tables).

Scientific notes

Scientific Notes report narrow or regional ecological results, with local appliance or restrict theoretical and/or practical consequences. Eventually, *Oecologia Australis* may accept natural history and geographical

distribution information concerning locally relevant species (endangered or not), crucial to the understanding of ecosystem functioning, especially those currently threatened, area-restricted, or presenting high endemism. **Scientific Notes written in English do not need an Abstract.** Except for Acknowledgements and References, the text does not have section division. Materials and Methods section should come in the end of the manuscript. **Scientific notes should not exceed 3,000 words.**

Reviews

Reviews should be comprehensive and synthetic papers that establish new benchmarks in Ecology. **Authors should bring critical and interpretive views of a particular subject, fundamental to understanding of ecological principles. Reviews should be more than simple ‘state of the art’ articles.** Rather than focusing only on the recent literature and highlighting trendy topics, Reviews should reflect the development of a topic and encompass relevant natural history, observational and experimental data, analyses, models, and theory. **Author(s) may also present future directions for the research field, i.e., it is expected that authors can bring their own view or novel interpretation to the research field. Reviews can contain up to 8,000 words** and the Material and Methods section must be positioned in the end of the text, with a detailed explanation on the procedures adopted for literature search, selection and analyses or meta-analyses techniques.

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Opinions must bring to readers novel insights and opinions regarding current and controversial topics in Ecology. Manuscripts in this section have no division. Eventually, authors can be asked to use Materials and Methods section separately, as in Scientific Notes, if unpublished data or meta-analyses are presented in a simplified manner. Acknowledgements and References sections can be used, if appropriate. **Maximum length allowed is 1,500 words.** The main objective of this session is to promote broad discussion among researchers and, thus, replies are encouraged.

SIMPLIFIED FORMATTING

During revision, it is extremely relevant the quality of the manuscript, *i.e.*, its theoretical context, objectives, hypotheses, methods, results and conclusions. Formatting of the sections is, therefore, secondary at this moment. So, we simplified the submission process to *Oecologia Australis*, to save time of authors, editors and referees.

If this is your first submission to *Oecologia Australis*, pay attention to simplified formatting rules below. We designed it to speed up the submission and review processes. Only manuscripts accepted for publication will require formatting details (detailed in Full Format section). Simplified formatted manuscripts should not contain author names, affiliation and acknowledgments, so we can simplify evaluation by double-blind system. It should only be included in the final version of the manuscript, after acceptance. Please, add word count after the title of the manuscript, including tables, figures, legends and references. Abstracts do not count.

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- Item sequence: title page, abstract and keywords, body text, literature cited, tables (one per page), figure legends (all in the same page);
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All manuscripts should contain Abstracts in the main language of the article and in English. Abstracts should not have more than 350 words, and should not be included in word-count. Abstracts should be

informative, showing the main objective of the study findings, key statistics, conclusions and most important ecological consequences. Articles written in English do not have a second Abstract. Immediately below, authors should provide up to five keywords, separated by a semicolon, alphabetically ordered, and not included in the title.

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