

The Tasmanian Naturalist

Guidelines for authors

Preamble

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club aims to encourage the study of all aspects of natural history and to encourage the conservation of our natural heritage. Club members are amateurs and professionals with a common interest in the natural world.

The Tasmanian Naturalist is published annually by the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc. and was first published in 1907. The journal is a forum for observations on natural history, and views on the management of natural values.

Authorship is unrestricted: Club and non-Club authors are welcome to submit articles, either in formal or informal style. Local, national and international authors are all encouraged.

Back issues of *The Tasmanian Naturalist* from no 1 onwards can be found on the Club's website.

The following guidelines are provided for authors wishing to submit articles.

Content

The Tasmanian Naturalist publishes articles on all aspects of natural history and the conservation, management and sustainable use of natural resources, with a focus on Tasmania and Tasmanian naturalists. These can be either in a formal or informal style. Articles need not be written in a traditional scientific format unless appropriate for the content. A wide range of types of articles is accepted. For instance, the journal will publish articles which:

- summarise or review relevant scientific studies, in language that can be appreciated by field naturalists;
- stimulate interest in, or facilitate in identifying, studying or recording particular taxa or habitats;
- record interesting observations of behaviour, phenology, natural variation or biogeography;
- stimulate thinking and discussion on points of interest or contention to naturalists;
- put the study of natural history today into context through comparisons with past writings, archives, etc.;
- review recent publications that are relevant to the study of Tasmanian natural history.

Book reviews, web site reviews, poetry and prose and other informal natural-history related content are also accepted. If you are thinking of submitting such material, please check with the Editor first (to avoid duplication of items such as book reviews and for appropriateness of content).

Submission of manuscripts/articles

Submissions should be provided in standard word processing format (i.e. .doc or .docx file). Please number all pages. Graphs, illustrations, photographs and maps must be provided as separate files and be of high resolution. The Naturalist pages are A5 landscape, and it is the authors' responsibility to ensure that any graphics will fit onto the A5 size. This is particularly important with tables. Ensure that any characters on maps and diagrams are readable when printed to fit on A5 size pages.

If a paper has more than one author, one of the Editors will correspond with the primary author.

Style and format

Formal articles should follow the style of similar articles in recent issues. (See back issues on the Club's website).

Articles should be wordprocessed in one font only and with single line spacing. Authors may use up to 4 levels of headings. Type headings in sentence case. Do not use all uppercase. Keep formatting to a minimum, as the desk-top publisher will format articles in the Tas Nat style. Do not embed illustrations. Write captions for all illustrations at the end of the document.

Title

Ensure that the title is succinct and relates directly to the content of the manuscript.

Author

Please provide the full name of the author(s), including middle initials if desired and an address, either postal and/or email, and provide the affiliation of the authors where needed.

Abstract

An abstract is only required for articles written in a - scientific style. Abstracts should be concise (preferably fewer than 200 words) and include the key objectives and findings of the work.

Units and measurements

International scientific units should be used, except where not relevant (e.g. citation of historical imperial information). In text, values should be followed by the abbreviated scientific unit, with a space between the value and the abbreviation e.g. the tail was 10 cm long and had a diameter of 4 mm.

Illustrations

Authors are encouraged to include colour photographs and to use colour in graphs and figures. Authors can indicate in the main section of text where they would like an illustration to appear and should ensure that the text includes a cross-reference to the numbered illustration. In The Tasmanian Naturalist, illustrations take the following form:

1. figures (graphs, line drawings, diagrams, maps, etc.)
2. plates (colour, black and white, grey-scale photos, microscope captured images, etc.) and
3. tables (for any tabulated information).

Maps must have a scale bar and north arrow, Ensure that tables will fit the A5 size of the publication, and keep formatting to a minimum. To assist with the best layout of pages, please do not crop photographs too closely. This will allow the desk top publisher to adjust the dimensions of the image to fit layout.

Credit, copyright and acknowledgement

Please provide credit for photos. Unless otherwise stated all images will be assumed to be by the authors. The Editors will also assume that the permission of the copyright owner has been gained. Authors should ensure that use of copyright-restricted material such as images from web-based satellite imagery or State-owned cadastral, topographic and geological mapping products, is credited within the text. The Editor will also assume that other people appearing in photographs have given their permission, and authors may be requested to provide formal acknowledgement that people appearing in photos have provided permission for their image to appear in print, a requirement under privacy legislation.

Authors should acknowledge, as concisely as possible, those involved in the work presented.

Permits and approvals

Where applicable authors are responsible for obtaining appropriate permits and ethics approvals for any of their work which is to be reported in the journal.

Appendices

Appendices may be accepted at the Editor's discretion depending on relevance and available space.

References

Authors are encouraged to cite peer-reviewed literature rather than "grey literature", e.g. formally unpublished internal government reports, post-graduate theses, informal newsletters and brochures of organisations, and "shifting" information sources such as web pages, internet dictionaries and encyclopaedias, . However, the use of such sources is often necessary, warranted.

In-text citations are as follows:

The cats we examined were all black, a finding also presented by Felix (2009). The dogs were all brown, a finding not supported by previous studies (Growler et al. 1969; Growler 1996; Furball & Growler 2003; Barker 2005; Furball 2009a, 2009b).

That is, citations are chronological, then alphabetical. No punctuation marks follow the author name; multiple citations are separated by semi-colons. Two authors are written in full separated by an ampersand (&); three or more authors are written as the primary author followed by *et al.* (the *et al.* not in italics, the *al.* but not the *et.*, followed by a period).

References cited in the text should be listed at the end of the paper in the following format (alphabetical and chronological):

Bryant, S.L. (1991). *The Ground Parrot* *Pezoporus wallicus in Tasmania: Distribution, Density and Conservation Status*. Scientific Report 1/91. Department of Parks, Wildlife and Heritage, Hobart.

Parks & Wildlife Service. *Wombat*, *Vombatus ursinus*.

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=4898>, accessed July 7 2009.

Ponder, W.F. (1993). Endemism in invertebrates in streams and rivers as demonstrated by hydrobiid snails. In: *Tasmanian Wilderness: World Heritage Values*. Eds. S. Smith & M. Banks. Royal Society of Tasmania, Hobart.

Rankin, D.J.W. (1998). *Patterns of Variation and Relationships in the Peppermint Eucalypts (Eucalyptus L'Her. ser. Radiatae Chippendale)*. Unpublished PhD thesis, LaTrobe University, Melbourne, Australia.

Ratkowsky, A.V. & Ratkowsky, D.A. (1976). The birds of the Mt. Wellington Range, Tasmania. *Emu* 77: 19–22.

Watts, D. (1993). *Tasmanian Mammals: A Field Guide*. Peregrine Press, Kettering.

Scientific and common names

Authors may use either scientific or common names of species but should keep in mind the wide readership of the journal, The scientific name of a species should appear at the first mention in an article. Thereafter, the common name or the abbreviated scientific name may be used.

Scientific names should be as up-to-date as possible and, where appropriate, the source of the names should be acknowledged.

Scientific names of species should be italicised and common names in plain type. Common names of plants are generally in lower case unless they involve a proper noun (eg pencil pine and Huon pine). Common names of animals can have upper case initial letter (especially for birds),

Book (and other material) reviews

Reviews of books (and other materials) are welcomed. Please keep reviews factual and informative about their relevance to field naturalists

Reviews should include the following details:

- full title of book, including subheadings
- full author names (as they appear on the cover of the book, including initials if present)
- ISBN code

- date of publication
- publication company
- format of book (e.g. soft cover, hard cover, pamphlet, etc.)
- number of pages
- illustration style (e.g. illustrated book, black and white photos, colour plates, etc.).

If possible, a high resolution scan of the cover should be included as a separate file.

Review process

Acceptance of submitted material for inclusion in *The Tasmanian Naturalist* is at the discretion of the Editors.

Formal articles are normally sent to at least one reviewer for comment. This is undertaken to try to ensure accuracy of information and to improve the quality of presentation. Authors may request or suggest referees for their manuscripts but the final selection is at the discretion of the Editors.

Copyright and other matters

All authors will be provided with a printed copy of the volume of *The Tasmanian Naturalist* in which their article appears. If their organisation requires additional copies, a request should be made to the Editor prior to printing because the Club has a limited print run (an at-cost fee may apply in these cases).

In addition, all authors will receive an "unprotected" (i.e. copyable and printable) pdf file of their article. The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc. authorises the author(s) to copy and distribute hard copy and electronic versions of their articles, including publishing pdf files on the author's own web site or the web site of their affiliated institution cited in the article. However, article content must remain unaltered, including reference to title of manuscript, author name(s), year of publication, volume number and page numbers. Any copying and distribution must be in accordance with Tasmanian, Australian and international copyright laws.

The Club distributes *The Tasmanian Naturalist* to several Tasmanian and Australian libraries and institutions/organisations, and some overseas facilities. In addition, the Club may publish all or part of each volume on the Club's web site via links to pdf files. The most recent year's volume may not appear on the Club's web site for a period of approximately 12 months.

The Editors, *The Tasmanian Naturalist*

Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

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