

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NUTRITION

DIRECTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

(Revised July 1988 – The vertical bars in the margin indicate the main changes introduced)

The *British Journal of Nutrition* publishes reports in English of original work in all branches of nutrition from any country. It does not print reviews of the literature or polemical articles, but the Editorial Board is willing to consider original articles critically re-examining published information and the conclusions drawn from it. The aim of all work presented should be to develop nutritional concepts.

Papers submitted for publication should be as concise as possible. Economy of space should not, however, be achieved by suppressing useful results.

Papers should be accompanied by a signed statement to the effect that the author accepts the conditions laid down in Directions to Contributors. Special attention is directed to the sections below about the preparation of the typescript; care in this matter will hasten publication. The Editors will return any typescript that does not conform to these conditions. Contributors of accepted articles will be asked to assign their copyright, on certain conditions, to The Nutrition Society to help protect their material.

Letters to the Editors. Letters are invited which discuss, criticize or develop themes put forward in papers published in the *Journal* or deal with other matters relevant to the *Journal*. They should not (a) exceed one printed page (approximately 800 words or the equivalent), (b) normally contain any figures, (c) be used as a means of publishing new work.

Acceptance will be at the discretion of the Editorial Board and editorial changes may be required. The restriction on length will be adhered to rigidly. If a letter is critical of a published paper the author(s) of that paper will be informed and given the opportunity to reply in the same issue.

Communications. Material submitted for publication should be sent to Professor M. I. Gurr, *British Journal of Nutrition*, c/o AFRC Institute of Food Research, Reading Laboratory, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire RG2 9AT. Receipt of papers will be acknowledged.

General. Submission of a paper to the Editorial Board will be held to imply that it represents the results of original research or of an original interpretation of existing knowledge not previously published; that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere; and that if accepted for the *British Journal of Nutrition* it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the consent of the Editorial Board.

Authors' names should be given without titles or degrees and one forename may be given in full. The name and address of the laboratory or institution where the work was performed should be given. Any necessary descriptive material about the author, e.g. Beit Memorial Fellow, should appear in parentheses after the author's name or at the end of the paper and not in the form of a footnote.

Typescripts should bear the name and address of the person to whom the proof of the paper is to be sent and should also give a shortened version of the paper's title, not exceeding forty-five letters and spaces in length, suitable for a running title in the published pages of the work.

If a typescript that has been returned to the author for revision is not resubmitted within three months, it may, on resubmission, be deemed a new paper and the date of receipt altered accordingly.

Form of Papers Submitted for Publication. The onus of preparing a paper in a form suitable for sending to press lies in the first place with the author. Authors should consult a current issue in order to make themselves familiar with the

practice of the *British Journal of Nutrition* as to typographical and other conventions, use of cross-headings, layout of tables and so on. Attention to these and other details (mentioned below) in the preparation of the typescript before it is sent to the Editors will shorten the time required for publication: the need for undue amounts of editorial revision caused by badly prepared typescript will lead to delay in publication. Any potentially ambiguous words such as 'available' must be properly defined. Papers on specialized aspects of the subject should be so presented as to make them intelligible, without undue difficulty, to the ordinary reader of the *Journal*. Sufficient information should be given to permit repetition of the published work by any competent reader of the *Journal*.

Papers should be in double-spaced typing on one side of sheets of paper (thin paper should not be used) of uniform size with wide margins. At the ends of lines of typing, words should not be hyphenated unless hyphens are to be printed. A space of 50 mm should be left at the top of the first sheet. Line-numbered paper should be used. The top copy and two photocopies or good carbon copies should be submitted, packed flat. Exceptionally for papers from overseas a top copy and one other copy will be accepted but this may cause some delay in handling. The paper should be written in English, the spelling being generally that of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, 7th ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press 1982. If occasionally, other spellings are preferred this will be indicated during technical editing. The paper should, in general, be divided into the following parts. (a) *Synopsis*: each paper must open with a synopsis not more than 5% of the length of the following text. This synopsis should aim at giving a picture in miniature of the entire article. The past tense should be used in referring to the author's experimental work. The present tense may be used where reference to existing knowledge is necessary, or where the author is stating what is shown or concluded. The change of tense should clearly differentiate the author's contribution from what is already known. The sequence in the synopsis should be the same as that in the paper. The synopsis should be divided into a series of numbered paragraphs giving, where relevant, the following information: a succinct account of the experimental work with essential facts about apparatus, chemicals, methods and animals; the results, singling out new information; the conclusions from the results. (b) *Introductory*

paragraph: it is not now customary to introduce a paper with a full account of the relevant literature, but the introductory paragraph should help the reader by indicating briefly the nature of the question asked and the reasons for asking it. The answer obtained should be indicated if it is possible to do so shortly. (c) *Experimental methods adopted*: methods should appear after the introduction. (d) *Results*: these should be given as concisely as possible, with the help of figures or tables. (e) *Discussion*: it is desirable that the presentation of the results and the discussion of their significance should be considered separately. (f) *References*: these should be given in the text thus: Sebrell & Harris (1967), (Wallace & West, 1982); where a paper to be cited has more than two authors, citations should appear thus (Peto *et al.* 1981). Where more than one paper has appeared in one year for which the first name in a group of three or more authors is the same, the reference should be given as follows: Adams *et al.* (1962a, b, c); or (Adams *et al.* 1962a, b, c; Ablett & McCance, 1971). In the text, references should be given in chronological order. At the end of the paper, on a page(s) separate from the text, references should be listed in alphabetical order according to the name of the first author of the publication quoted, names with prefixes being entered under the prefix, and should include the author's initials and the title of the paper. Names and initials of authors of unpublished work should be given in the text and not included in the References. Titles of journals should appear in full. References to books and monographs should include the town of publication and the number of the edition to which reference is made. Thus:

- Ablett, J. G. & McCance, R. A. (1971). Energy expenditure of children with kwashiorkor. *Lancet* **ii**, 517–519.
- Adams, R. L., Andrews, F. N., Gardiner, E. E., Fontaine, W. E. & Carrick, C. W. (1962a). The effects of environmental temperature on the growth and nutritional requirements of the chick. *Poultry Science* **41**, 588–594.
- Adams, R. L., Andrews, F. N., Rogler, J. C. & Carrick, C. W. (1962b). The protein requirement of 4-week-old chicks as affected by temperature. *Journal of Nutrition* **77**, 121–126.
- Adams, R. L., Andrews, F. N., Rogler, J. C. & Carrick, C. W. (1962c). The sulfur amino acid requirement of the chick from 4 to 8 weeks of age as affected by temperature. *Poultry Science* **41**, 1801–1806.
- Agricultural Research Council (1981). *The Nutrient Requirements of Pigs*. Slough: Commonwealth Agriculture Bureaux.
- Hegsted, D. M. (1963). Variation in requirements of nutrients–amino acids. *Federation Proceedings* **22**, 1424–1430.
- Louis-Sylvestre, J. (1987). Adaptation de l'ingestion alimentaire aux dépenses énergétiques (Adaptation of food intake to energy expenditure). *Reproduction Nutrition Développement* **27**, 171–188.
- Martens, H. & Rayssiguier, Y. (1980). Magnesium metabolism and hypomagnesaemia. In *Digestive Physiology and Metabolism in Ruminants*, pp. 447–466 [Y. Ruckebusch and P. Thivend, editors]. Lancaster: MTP Press Ltd.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1977). *Energy Allowances and Feeding Systems for Ruminants*. Technical Bulletin no. 33. London: H.M. Stationery Office.
- Peto, R., Doll, R., Buckley, J. D. & Sporn, M. B. (1981). Can dietary beta-carotene materially reduce human cancer rates? *Nature* **290**, 201–208.

Sebrell, W. H. Jr & Harris, R. S. (1967). *The Vitamins*, 2nd ed., vol. 1. London: Academic Press.

Technicon Instruments Co. Ltd. (1967). *Technicon Methodology Sheet N-36*. Basingstoke: Technicon Instruments Co. Ltd.

Van Dokkum, W., Wesstra, A. & Schippers, F. (1982). Physiological effects of fibre-rich types of bread. 1. The effect of dietary fibre from bread on the mineral balance of young men. *British Journal of Nutrition* **47**, 451–460.

Wallace, R. J. & West, A. A. (1982). Adenosine 5'-triphosphate and adenylate energy charge in sheep digesta. *Journal of Agricultural Science, Cambridge* **98**, 523–528.

Wilson, J. (1965). Leber's disease. PhD Thesis, University of London.

World Health Organization (1965). *Physiology of Lactation*. Technical Report Series no. 305. Geneva: WHO

In addition a descriptive note, not exceeding 50 words, should be supplied providing a broad statement of the work done and its wider significance. For each issue, edited notes will be gathered together and presented on introductory pages.

Mathematical Modelling of Nutritional Processes. Papers in which mathematical modelling of nutritional processes forms the principal element will be considered for publication provided: (i) the model is innovative, (ii) it is based on demonstrably sound biological and mathematical principles, (iii) it advances nutritional concepts or identifies new avenues likely to lead to such advances, (iv) assumptions used in its construction are fully described and supported by appropriate argument, (v) it is described in such a way that its nutritional purpose is clearly apparent and its principal components are capable of being tested by experiment.

Units. Results should be presented in metric units according to the International System of Units (see *Quantities, Units, and Symbols*. London: The Royal Society, 1971, and *Metric Units, Conversion Factors and Nomenclature in Nutritional and Food Sciences*. London: The Royal Society, 1972 – reproduced in *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society* (1972) **31**, 239–247).

Energy measurements should be expressed in joules.

For substances of known molecular weight, e.g. glucose, urea, Ca, Na, Fe, K, P, values should be expressed as mol/l; for substances of indeterminate molecular weights, e.g. phospholipids, proteins, and for trace elements, e.g. Cu, Zn, g/l should be used.

Time. The 24 h clock should be used, e.g. 15.00 hours.

Statistical Treatment of Results. The experimental design and method of analysis should be described in sufficient detail to permit anyone wishing to reproduce the experiment and its analysis to do so.

In general, it is not necessary to publish the individual results of replicated tests and statistical details, such as analysis of variance tables, should be given only if they are relevant to the discussion. A statement of the number of replicates, their average value and some appropriate measure of variability is usually sufficient. Where means are quoted, the most appropriate measure of variability is usually the standard error (SE) of the mean although when there is specific interest in the distribution of the individual values in the sample the standard deviation (SD) is more useful. In

either case, the measure adopted and the number of values on which it is based must be clearly stated. The notation '±' should not be used when presenting SE or SD; forms such as mean 3.51 (SE 0.67) μmol are suitable.

A statement that the difference between the means for two groups of values is statistically significant should include the level of significance attained and, where a pooled estimate of variance has been used, the corresponding degrees of freedom should be quoted.

Figures. These include graphs, histograms, complex formulas, metabolic pathways. Originals and one photocopy should be submitted, each on a separate sheet, not larger overall than the sheets on which the paper itself is typed, and packed flat. Mounting on heavy cardboard is undesirable. Photographs of line drawings are accepted if printed on matt paper. In curves presenting experimental results, the determined points should be clearly shown, the symbols used being, in order of preference, ○, ●, △, ▲, □, ■, ×, +. Curves and symbols should be drawn with a mechanical aid and not free hand, and should not extend beyond the experimental points. Scale-marks on the axes should be on the inner side of each axis and should extend beyond the last experimental point.

Numbers and letters should be written not on the figure but in the correct position on a flyleaf of tracing paper firmly attached. On the flyleaf should be typed or stencilled: (a) the title of the paper and the names of the authors; (b) the figure number. Legends for all figures should be typed on one separate sheet (two or more, if necessary) and numbered corresponding to the relevant figures. Each figure, with its legend, should be comprehensible without reference to the text. The approximate position of each should be indicated in the margin of the text thus: 'Fig. 1 near here'.

Plates. Glossy photographs are required, and should be accompanied by a legend prepared as above. The size of photomicrographs may have to be altered in printing. To avoid mistakes, the magnification must be shown by a scale on the photograph itself, e.g. thus: $\underline{\hspace{1cm}} 1 \mu\text{m}$. The scale with the appropriate unit should be drawn by the author on the flyleaf together with any lettering and will be inserted by the Press. Do not write details on the back of prints, bend, use paper-clips or mark in any way. The plate number, title of the paper and authors' names should be typed on a label and pasted onto the back of the print.

Tables. Tables should carry headings describing their content and should be comprehensible without reference to the text. The dimensions of the values, e.g. mg/kg, should be given at the top of each column and not repeated on each line of the table. Tables should not normally be included in the body of the text, but should be typed on separate sheets. Tables should not be subdivided by ruled lines. Their approximate position should be indicated in the margin of the text thus: 'Table 1 near here'.

Diagrams. Diagrams to appear as tables (e.g. flow diagrams) should be prepared as for Tables using Letraset or stencils. No flyleaf is required.

Key Words. Authors should supply two or three key words or phrases (each containing up to three words) on the title page of typescripts. These will be used to compile subject indexes of published papers.

Chemical Formulas. These should be written as far as possible on a single horizontal line. With inorganic substances, formulas may be used, particularly in the Experimental part, at the discretion of the Editors. With salts, it must be stated whether or not the anhydrous material is used, e.g. anhydrous CuSO_4 , or which of the different crystalline forms is meant, e.g. $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$.

Descriptions of Solutions, Compositions and Concentrations. Solutions of common acids, bases and salts should be defined in terms of molarity (M), e.g. 0.1 M- NaH_2PO_4 . Compositions expressed as mass per unit mass (w/w) should have values expressed as ng, μg , mg or g per kg; similarly for concentrations expressed as mass per unit volume (w/v), the denominator being the litre. Concentrations or compositions should not be expressed on a percentage basis. The common measurements used in nutritional studies, e.g. digestibility, biological value and net protein utilization, should be expressed as decimals rather than percentages, so that amounts of available nutrients can be obtained from analytical results by direct multiplication. See *Metric Units, Conversion Factors and Nomenclature in Nutritional and Food Sciences*. London: The Royal Society, 1972 (para 8).

Nomenclature of Vitamins. Most of the names for vitamins and related compounds that are accepted by the Editors are those recommended by the IUNS Committee on Nomenclature. See *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews A* (1978), 48, 831-835.

Previous name	Recommended name
Vitamin A ₁	Retinol
Retinene or retinal	Retinaldehyde
Vitamin A acid	Retinoic acid
Vitamin A ₂ or 3-dehydroretinol	Dehydroretinol
Retinene ₂ or 3-dehydroretinal	Dehydroretinaldehyde
Vitamin D ₂ or calciferol	Ergocalciferol
Vitamin D ₃	Cholecalciferol
Vitamins E	See <i>Generic descriptors</i>
Vitamin K ₁ or phyloquinone	Phylloquinone
Vitamin K ₂ series	*Menaquinones
Vitamin K ₃ , menadione or menaphthone	Menadione
Vitamin B ₁ , aneurin(e) or thiamine	Thiamin
Vitamin B ₂ or riboflavin	Riboflavin
Nicotinic acid or niacin	Nicotinic acid
Niacinamide or nicotinic acid amide	Nicotinamide
Folic acid or folacin(e)	Pteroylmonoglutamic acid
Vitamin B ₆ , adermin or pyridoxol	Pyridoxine
Pyridoxal	Pyridoxal
Pyridoxamine	Pyridoxamine
Vitamin B ₁₂ or cobalamin	Cyanocobalamin
Vitamin B _{12a} , B _{12b} or hydroxocobamide	Hydroxocobalamin
Vitamin B _{12c}	Nitritocobalamin
Inositol or meso-inositol	Ψ-Inositol
Pantothenic acid	Pantothenic acid
Biotin	Biotin

Choline	Choline
<i>p</i> -Aminobenzoic acid	<i>p</i> -Aminobenzoic acid
Vitamin C or L-ascorbic acid	Absorbic acid
L-Dehydroascorbic acid	Dehydroascorbic acid

* Details of the nomenclature for these and other naturally occurring quinones should follow the Tentative Rules of the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (see *Biochemical Journal* (1967), **102**, 15–27).

Generic descriptors. The terms **vitamin A**, **vitamin C** and **vitamin D** may still be used where appropriate for example in phrases such as 'vitamin A deficiency', 'vitamin D activity'.

Vitamin E. The term **vitamin E** should be used as the descriptor for all tocol and tocotrienol derivatives exhibiting qualitatively the biological activity of α -tocopherol. The term **tocopherols** should be used as the generic descriptor for all methyl tocols. Thus, the term tocopherol is not synonymous with the term **Vitamin E**.

Vitamin K. The term **vitamin K** should be used as the generic descriptor for 2-methyl-1, 4-naphthoquinone (menaphthone) and all derivatives exhibiting qualitatively the biological activity of phyloquinone (phytylmenaquinone).

Niacin. The term **niacin** should be used as the generic descriptor for pyridine 3-carboxylic acid and derivatives exhibiting qualitatively the biological activity of nicotinamide.

Folic acids. The term **folic acid** may be used to designate the naturally occurring pteroylglutamine acids.

Vitamin B₆. The term **vitamin B₆** should be used as the generic descriptor for all 2-methylpyridine derivatives exhibiting qualitatively the biological activity of pyridoxine.

Vitamin B₁₂. The term **vitamin B₁₂** should be used as the generic descriptor for all corrinoids exhibiting qualitatively the biological activity of cyanocobalamin. The term **corrinoids** should be used as the generic descriptor for all compounds containing the corrin nucleus and thus chemically related to cyanocobalamin. The term **corrinoid** is not synonymous with the term **vitamin B₁₂**.

Amounts of vitamins and summation. All amounts of vitamins should be expressed in terms of their mass rather than in terms of i.u. See *Metric Units, Conversion Factors and Nomenclature in Nutritional and Food Sciences*. London: The Royal Society, 1972 (paras. 8 and 14–20).

Nomenclature of Fatty Acids. In the description of results obtained for the analysis of fatty acids by conventional gas-liquid chromatography, the shorthand designation proposed by Farquhar, J. W., Insull, W., Rosen, P., Stoffel, W. & Ahrens, E. H. (*Nutrition Reviews* (1959), **17**, Suppl.) for individual fatty acids should be used in the text, tables and figures. Thus 18:1 should be used to represent a fatty acid with eighteen carbon atoms and one double bond; if the position and configuration of the double bond is unknown, this fatty acid should not be referred to as oleic acid. The shorthand designation should also be used in the synopsis but sentences should be constructed so that it is clear to the non-specialist reader that 18:1 refers to a fatty acid; for example, '...resulted in an increase in the concentrations of the fatty acid 18:1 in the liver triglycerides...'. If the positions and configurations of the double bonds are known,

and these are important to the discussion, then a fatty acid such as linoleic acid may be referred to as 18:2 Δ 9-*cis*, 12-*cis* (position of double bonds related to carbon atom 1). However, when essential and related fatty acids derived from animal tissues are being considered, it is preferable to refer to fatty acids such as linoleic acid as 18:2 ω 6 and arachidonic acid as 20:4 ω 6 (position of double bonds related to the ω -carbon atom); it is assumed that the double bonds are methylene-interrupted and are of the *cis*-configuration (see Holman, R. T. in *Progress in the Chemistry of Fats and Other Lipids*, vol. 9, part 1, p. 3. Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1966). Groups of fatty acids that have a common chain length but vary in their double bond content or double bond position should be referred to, for example, as C₂₀ fatty acids or C₂₀ polyunsaturated fatty acids. Impure samples of fatty acids such as those used in the preparation of diets should be referred to, for example as 'linoleic acid'.

Nomenclature of Enzymes. The nomenclature should be that of the Recommendations of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry, 1984 (*Enzyme Nomenclature*. London: Academic Press, 1984). Relevant EC numbers should be given.

Nomenclature of Micro-organisms. The correct name of the organism, conforming with international rules of nomenclature, must be used: if desired, synonyms may be added in brackets when the name is first mentioned. Names of bacteria must conform with the current Bacteriological Code and the opinions issued by the International Committee on Systematic Bacteriology. Names of algae and fungi must conform with the current International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. Names of protozoa must conform with the current International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

The following books may be found useful:

- Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology*, 8th edn (1974), edited by R. E. Buchanan and N. E. Gibbons. Baltimore: The Williams and Wilkins Co.
- The Yeasts, a Taxonomic Study*, 2nd edn (1970), edited by J. Lodder. Amsterdam: North Holland Publishing Co.
- Ainsworth and Bisby's Dictionary of the fungi*, 6th edn (1971). Kew: Commonwealth Mycological Institute.

Nomenclature of Plants. For plant species where a common name is used that may not be universally intelligible, the Latin name in italics should follow the first mention of the common name. The cultivar should be given where appropriate.

Other Nomenclature, Symbols and Abbreviations. Authors should follow current numbers of the *British Journal of Nutrition* in this connection. The IUPAC rules on chemical nomenclature should be followed, and the Recommendations of the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature (see *Biochemical Journal* (1978) **169**, 11–14). The symbols and abbreviations, other than units, are essentially those listed in *British Standard 5775* (1979–1982). *Specifications for Quantities, Units and Symbols*, parts 0–13. Day should be abbreviated to d, for example 7 d; except for example, 'each day', '7th day' and 'day 1'.

When an element, e.g. nitrogen, is referred to frequently, the first mention, both in the synopsis and the main text, should be in full, after that by its chemical symbol N.

Well-known abbreviations for chemical substances may be used without explanation, thus: RNA for ribonucleic acid and DNA for deoxyribonucleic acid. Other substances that are mentioned frequently may also be abbreviated, the abbreviation being placed in parentheses at the first mention, thus: free fatty acids (FFA) after that, FFA. Abbreviations in tables must be defined in footnotes. Signs for footnotes should be used in the sequence: * † ‡ § ¶, then ** etc. (omit * or †, or both, from the sequence if they are used to indicate levels of significance).

Spectrophotometric terms and symbols are those proposed in *IUPAC Manual of Symbols and Terminology for Physicochemical Quantities and Units* (1975) (London: Butterworths). The attention of authors is particularly drawn to the following symbols: m (= milli) = 10^{-3} , μ (= micro) = 10^{-6} , n (= nano) = 10^{-9} and p (= pico) = 10^{-12} . Note also that ml (millilitre) should be used instead of cc, μm (micrometre) instead of μ (micron) and μg (microgram) instead of γ .

Numbers. Figures should be used with units, for example 10 g, 7 d, 4 years (except when beginning a sentence, thus 'Four years ago...'); otherwise, words (except when 100 or more), thus: one man, ten ewes, ninety-nine flasks, three times (but with decimal 2.5, times), 100 patients, 120 cows, 136 samples.

Ethics of Human Experimentation. The notice of contributors is drawn to the guide-lines in the Declaration of Helsinki (1964) (*British Medical Journal* (1964) ii, 177–178) and to the Report of ELSE as printed in *British Journal of Nutrition* (1973) 29, 149. A paper describing any experimental work on human subjects should include a statement that the Ethical Committee in the Institution in which the work was performed, where such a Committee exists, has approved it.

A paragraph headed *Ethical considerations* in which the experiments are discussed and justified from an ethical standpoint should form the last paragraph of the Experimental section.

Animal Experimentation. The Editors will reject papers reporting work carried out using inhumane procedures. In general, the criteria that they will adopt are set out in *Guidelines on the Use of Living Animals in Scientific Investigations*, published in 1984 by the Biological Council, Institute of Biology, 20 Queensbury Place, London SW7 2DZ.

Proofs. Proofs are sent to authors in order that they may make sure that the paper has been correctly set up in type and not that they may add new material. Otherwise, increased printing charges are inevitable. Excessive alteration may have to be disallowed or made at the author's expense. Authors will not receive the typescript of their paper with the proof. The symbols used to indicate corrections should be those laid down in *British Standard 5261 C: 1976*. All corrections should be made in ink in the margins; marks made in the text should be only those indicating the place to which the corrections refers.

Corrected proofs should be returned without delay to Mrs Margot Skipper, *British Journal of Nutrition*, c/o AFRC Institute of Food Research, Reading Laboratory, Shinfield, Reading, Berkshire RG2 9AT.

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