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BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHARMACOLOGY

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS (SI)

From February 1970 the British Journal of Pharmacology will use the **symbols** recommended in the SI (Système Internationale) (see *Symbols, Signs and Abbreviations Recommended for British Scientific Publications* (1969) (London: The Royal Society: price 7s.)). It is the policy of the Editorial Board to adopt **SI units**, although the use of certain non-SI units will for the time being be permitted. Full details of the changes involved will be published in a forthcoming "Instructions to Authors". The following is a list (a) of some of the commoner units with their recommended symbols, (b) of some non-SI units which may still be used, and (c) of units which will no longer be acceptable.

(a) SI units with recommended symbols

Unit	Correct symbol
kilogramme	kg
second, millisecond	s ms
mole, millimole, micromole,	mol mmol μ mol
nanomole, picomole	nmol pmol
metre, centimetre, millimetre,	m cm mm
micrometre	μ m
Hertz	Hz

(b) Some permitted non-SI units

ångström	Å ($=10^{-10}$ m $=0.1$ nm)
gramme	g
minute	min
hour	h
molarity (mol/litre)	M
calorie	cal (4.184 J) (Conversion factor to be given as a footnote at first citation or in Methods)
millimetre of mercury	mmHg (1.333 mbar) (Conversion factor to be given as a footnote at first citation or in Methods)
millibar	mbar
poise	P
curie	Ci
litre	l. (where there is danger of confusion between the numeral '1' and the letter 'l', 'litre' should be written in full, and always at the end of a sentence)
millilitre, microlitre	ml μ l
degree Celsius	°C

(c) Units no longer acceptable

Inch, foot, pound, pound per square inch, °F.

Expressions such as cycles per second (c/s) will no longer be accepted. Frequencies should be expressed in the appropriate approved symbols: thus a stimulation frequency should be given in Hz (frequency of irregular or occasional events should be given per unit time, s⁻¹, h⁻¹ etc.).

Instructions to Authors

1. **Manuscripts** (2 copies) should be typed in double spacing on one side of paper not larger than foolscap (33×20.5 cm). There should be a separate title page giving the names and addresses of the authors in alphabetical order.
2. A **short summary of results and conclusions** (arranged in numbered paragraphs), **tables and legends to figures** should be typed on separate sheets of paper.
3. **References** should be collected at the end of the paper. They should include the author's names, year of publication, title of article, title of publication (abbreviated in accordance with the fourth edition of the *World List of Scientific Periodicals*), volume number and first and last page numbers. References to books should, in addition, include the names of editors, the edition number, where appropriate, and the town of origin and name of publisher.
4. **Figures** should NOT BE LARGER THAN FOOLSCAP (33×20.5 cm) and may be in the form of original drawings, recorded tracings or high quality photographic prints made from them. Negative prints of kymograph tracings (black on white) should be provided and both ordinates and abscissae should be calibrated.
5. **Lettering** on figures should be inserted in PENCIL. Symbols which are to appear in figures or legends should be chosen from the following:

\times $+$ \bullet \blacksquare \circ \square \triangle \blacktriangle ∇ \blacktriangledown \odot \ominus \diamond
6. **Photographs and photomicrographs** should be printed on glossy paper and should be larger than the size required for reproduction.
7. **Tables** ideally should not have more than 84 characters to a line (counting spaces between columns as 4 characters) and certainly not more than 130 characters to a line, unless absolutely unavoidable.
8. An **abstract** of about 100 words suitable for inclusion in *International Abstracts of Biological Sciences* should be typed on a separate sheet.

General remarks. A recent issue of the journal is a good guide to style. Papers are accepted only if accompanied by a statement that they have not and will not be published in whole or in part in any other Journal.

Two page proofs will be supplied, one of which may be retained by the authors. The other should be corrected immediately and returned to the Press Editor. Corrections should be kept to a minimum.

Fifty reprints will be supplied to the authors free of charge. Additional reprints can be purchased. A reprint order form, which should be returned promptly, will be sent out with the proofs.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHARMACOLOGY

JUL 20 1970

Volume 39 Number 3

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

page

Systematic Pharmacology

- 465 COUPAR, I. M. The effect of isoprenaline on adrenoceptors in human saphenous vein. (SP1, AP1, DM2)
- 476 HUGHES, J. and VANE, J. R. Relaxations of the isolated portal vein of the rabbit induced by nicotine and electrical stimulation. (SP1, AP1)
- 490 WALKER, JOYCE L. and WEETMAN, D. F. Oxotremorine-induced hypertension in the anaesthetized rat. (SP1, AP1, SP2)
- 501 BURKA, B., HERMAN, E. and VICK, J. Role of the sympathetic nervous system in daunomycin-induced arrhythmia in the monkey. (SP1, AP1)
- 511 LAVERY, HELEN A., LOWE, R. D. and SCROOP, G. C. Cardiovascular effects of prostaglandins mediated by the central nervous system of the dog. (SP1, SP2, AP2)
- 520 MAXWELL, D. R. and RHODES, K. F. The effects of dimethothiazine on muscle spindle activity in the decerebrate cat. (SP2)

Autopharmacology

- 533 KIRPEKAR, S. M. and WAKADE, A. R. Effect of β -haloalkylamines and ephedrine on nor-adrenaline release from the intact spleen of the cat. (AP1, PK3)
- 542 DALE, M. MAUREEN and ZILLETI, LUCILLA. The Schultz-Dale response of the longitudinal muscle strip preparation of guinea-pig ileum. (AP2)
- 556 EAKINS, K. E., KARIM, S. M. M. and MILLER, J. D. Antagonism of some smooth muscle actions of prostaglandins by polyphloreitin phosphate. (AP2, DM2)
- 564 BALASUBRAMANIAM, K., LUCAS, S. B., MAWER, G. E. and SIMONS, P. J. The kinetics of amylorbarbitone metabolism in healthy men and women. (PK1, CP, TX)

Pharmacokinetics

- 573 GRYGLEWSKI, R. and VANE, J. R. The inactivation of noradrenaline and isoprenaline in dogs. (PK1, SP1, AP1)
- 585 DAWSON, W., JESSUP, SHEILA J., McDONALD-GIBSON, WENDY, RAMWELL, P. W. and SHAW, JANE E. Prostaglandin uptake and metabolism by the perfused rat liver. (PK2, PK3, AP2)

Drug Mechanisms

- 599 FOWLER, J. S. L. Carbon tetrachloride metabolism in sheep and in *Fasciola hepatica*. (DM1, CT, TX)
- 608 TASHIRO, N. and TOMITA, T. The effects of papaverine on the electrical and mechanical activity of the guinea-pig taenia coli. (DM1)
- 619 LIEBERG, G. and PERSSON, C. G. A. Adrenoceptors in the cat choledochoduodenal junction studied *in situ*. (DM2, AP1, SP3)
- 627 SMITS, S. E. and TAKEMORI, A. E. Quantitative studies on the antagonism by naloxone of some narcotic and narcotic-antagonist analgesics. (DM2, SP2)
- 639 SMITS, S. E. and TAKEMORI, A. E. Studies on the receptors involved in the action of the various agents in the phenylbenzoquinone analgesic assay in mice. (DM2, SP2)

Psychopharmacology

- 647 BARLOW, R. B., OLIVERIO, A., SATTA, M. and THOMPSON, G. M. Some central effects in mice of compounds related to nicotine. (PP, SP2, SP3)

SHORT COMMUNICATION

- 653 CURZON, G. and GREEN, A. R. Rapid method for the determination of 5-hydroxytryptamine and 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid in small regions of rat brain. (SP2, PK1)

Systematic Pharmacology

Cardiovascular system SP1
Central nervous system SP2
Other physiological systems SP3

Pharmacokinetics

Storage, distribution, fate PK1
Synthesis, metabolism PK2
Uptake, release PK3

Clinical Pharmacology, Experimental

Therapy CP
Chemotherapy CT
Miscellaneous M

Autopharmacology

Adrenergic, cholinergic transmission AP1
Histamine, kinins, prostaglandins, etc. AP2
Hormones AP3

Drug Mechanisms

Molecular, cellular, biochemical, biophysical DM1
Receptors, antagonism, potentiation, tolerance DM2

Pharmacometrics PM

Psychopharmacology PP
Toxicology TX