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BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHARMACOLOGY

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS (SI)

The British Journal of Pharmacology uses the **symbols** recommended in the SI (Système Internationale) (see *Symbols, Signs and Abbreviations Recommended for British Scientific Publications* (1969) (London: The Royal Society: price 35p.)). 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)
millimetres 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 'l' 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 (irregular or occasional events should be given per unit time, e.g. s^{-1} , h^{-1}). When there is more than one solidus in an expression, parentheses should be used to eliminate ambiguity, e.g. (mg/kg)/day.

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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 authors' 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.
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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.
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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.

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