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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, nanomole, picomole | mol mmol μ mol nmol pmol |
| metre, centimetre, millimetre, micrometre | m cm mm 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 '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 (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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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. A short title containing not more than 40 letters should also be suggested.

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.

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 kymography 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:

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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.

8. **An abstract** of about 100 words suitable for inclusion in *International Abstracts of Biological Sciences* should be typed on a separate sheet, giving the author's name and address and the title of the paper.

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.

Twenty-five 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. No reprints of abstracts are supplied.

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