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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

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

 $\begin{array}{ll} \text{micrometre} & \mu \text{m} \\ \text{Hertz} & \text{Hz} \end{array}$

(b) Some permitted non-SI units

nour h
molarity (mol/litre) м

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

1. (where there is danger of confusion between the numeral '1' and the letter '1', 'litre' should be written

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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