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INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

With effect from January 2005

The *British Journal of Pharmacology* welcomes contributions in all fields of experimental pharmacology for publication as full papers, Review Articles and Commentaries. (Please note Commentaries must be commissioned by the Journal).

Papers should normally be based on new results obtained experimentally and should constitute a significant contribution to pharmacological knowledge. Papers that reassess pharmacological concepts based on earlier results will also be considered as will purely theoretical papers. Papers dealing only with descriptions of methods are acceptable if new principles are involved.

Contributions that have already been published, or accepted or are under consideration for publication, with essentially the same content will not be considered. This restriction does not apply to results published as abstracts of communications, letters to editors, or as contributions to symposia, provided that the submission adds significantly to the information available in the previously published contribution.

Papers are only accepted if accompanied by a licence to publish which must be signed as a hard copy by all Authors and returned to the BJP editorial office. **All signatures must be hard copy originals – faxed or scanned versions will not suffice**. This licence concerns the originality of the submitted paper and licenses publication to Nature Publishing Group on behalf of the British Pharmacological Society. See page 541 for details.

The Journal will not consider papers which describe experiments on animals which do not fall clearly within the current laws governing animal experimentation in the United Kingdom (www.archive.official-documents.co.uk/document/hoc/321/321-00.htm). Authors must make it clear that the procedures they used were as humane as possible and complied with the guidelines for animal care of their institutions or with national/international guidelines. The doses (initial and subsequent) of anaesthetics and analgesics should be clearly stated; the method of assessing anaesthesia, particularly after the administration of skeletal muscle relaxants (neuromuscular blocking drugs), must be well defined. The Society has an Ethics Committee which can be consulted by authors through the Senior Editor to the Editorial Board.

When investigations on normal human subjects are reported, evidence of approval by a local Ethics Committee must be given. Papers concerned with clinical trials investigating the effects of drugs on patients are not appropriate for this Journal.

Authors are strongly urged to keep their manuscripts as short as they reasonably can. An effective way is to reduce the Discussion and the number of figures to a minimum and to avoid repetition of information that has already been published. Authors should remember that a reader may be influenced by literary style and will appreciate simple but accurate prose. The Journal provides a Language Editing Service for its authors. For further information on this service please contact bjp@bps.ac.uk

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Authors may wish to suggest the Senior Editor they consider most suitable, along with the names of two possible Editors to review their manuscript. The final selection will, however, remain with the Senior Editor.

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Rebuttals must be received as a separate document labelled rebuttals and should not be included as part of the cover letter.

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Manuscripts must be typed in double-line spacing, in type not smaller than 11 point with margins of no less than 3 cm and each page should be numbered. If submitting a hard copy manuscripts should be printed on one side of US letter or A4 paper and clipped (not stapled) together. Papers in recent issues of the *British Journal of Pharmacology* should be consulted for the general layout of the paper and also for details. For all manuscripts the following subsections are used:

1. Title page
2. Summary
3. Introduction
4. Methods
5. Results
6. Discussion and conclusions
7. Acknowledgements
8. List of references
9. Tables
10. Legends
11. Figures

Please refer to the e-Journal Press website Author Instructions for preferred file formats.

Title page

The **title** should normally contain **no more than 150 characters** and should not be interrogative or consist of more than one sentence. It should clearly indicate the subject matter of the paper and any statements contained therein should be justified by the results presented in the paper. A short running **title** containing not more than 50 characters and spaces is **also required**. The title page should include the names of authors and their appropriate addresses. It should be made clear which address relates to which author. Authors' present addresses differing from those at which the work was carried out should

be given as footnotes on the title page and references at the appropriate place in the author list by superscript numbers. A footnote may also be used to indicate the author to whom correspondence should be sent. Please note an e-mail address must be given. The use of footnotes for any other reason is not allowed. If the e-mail address to which proofs should be sent is not that of the first mentioned author, clear instructions should be given in a covering note and not on the title page. The title page should be paginated as page 1 of the paper.

Summary

The summary will be printed at the beginning of the paper. **It must not exceed 250 words** and should be intelligible to the non-specialist reader and suitable for direct transposition by abstracting services. It should contain a brief account of the question addressed in the paper, the principal methods and results, and the main conclusion(s), and should be arranged in numbered and concise paragraphs. Abbreviations and symbols should be explained in brackets on first use – for example, bradykinin (BK). References should be avoided where possible; if considered absolutely necessary, they should include the first or only two authors, year, journal abbreviation and volume and page numbers, for example (Fenwick *et al*., 1982: *J. Physiol*., **331**, 599-635; Takahashi & Momiyama, 1993: *Nature*, **366**, 156–158). **Keywords**. Up to 10 keywords or phrases of two to three words (including names and terms used in the title) should be displayed at the end of the summary. Please try to avoid unhelpful or unqualified terms such as 'inhibition', 'drug' etc. **Abbreviations.** An alphabetical list of non-standard abbreviations should be provided at this point – for example HUVEC, human umbilical vein endothelial cells; VSMC, vascular smooth muscle cells. (The full name plus abbreviation should also be used in the text on first mention.)

Introduction

The introduction should give a short and clear account of the background of the problem and the rationale of the investigation. Only previous work that has a direct bearing on the present problem should be cited.

Methods

The methods must be described in sufficient detail to allow the experiments to be interpreted and repeated by the reader. However, detailed repetition of methods which have been adequately described previously should be avoided and references given, although a brief outline is often helpful.

The methods are presented in sub-sections, usually defined by the experimental procedure. Where animals are used, they and their conditions of maintenance (food, water, light/dark cycles and ethical guidelines) should be described in the first subsection of Methods. All manuscripts must state the number and species of animals used in the Methods. In those experiments in which animals are maintained under anaesthesia and vital signs (e.g. blood pressure, heart rate and blood gases) are monitored, then these data should also be included in the Methods.

Drugs, chemicals and other materials (cell culture reagents, antibodies, etc) should be listed in a separate paragraph after the methods. This paragraph should also include the names and brief address of the relevant suppliers. Drug names should be 'approved names' as published previously in the British Approved Names 2002 (www.tso.co.uk/bookshop/ bookstore.asp? ACTION = Book & productID = 011322558X) or as listed in the current version of the British National Formulary (www.bnf.org). If a drug has no 'approved name', its chemical name must be used and the rules set out in the current *Handbook for Chemical Society Authors* (London, Chemical Society – www.rsc.org) observed, or its structural formula given. Cumbersome chemical names should be suitably abbreviated for later reference in the paper.

The doses of drugs should be given as unit per body weight, e.g. mmol kg^{-1} or mg kg^{-1}; concentrations should be given in terms of molarity, e.g. nM or μM.

The last subsection should provide the methods of data analysis and statistical assessment that have been used.

Results

The description of the experimental results should be succinct but, nevertheless, in sufficient detail to allow the experiments to be repeated by others. Typical single experiments may be presented with a clear statement that n number of similar experiments had similar results. Where appropriate, however, the mean results with confidence limits or with standard errors of the means and the number of observations should be given. Statistical tests of significance should be performed where appropriate. The results of such tests should be stated as the numerical value of the probability (P) that is calculated, with any necessary clarification (e.g. one-tail or two-tail test).

Every effort should be made to avoid unnecessary repetition of data in the text, tables and figures. Conclusions and theoretical considerations should not be elaborated in this section.

Discussion

The purpose of the discussion is to present a brief and pertinent interpretation of the results against the background of existing knowledge. Any assumptions on which conclusions are based must be stated clearly. A mere recapitulation of the results is not acceptable. A review-like treatment, which reduces the impact on the reader, should also be avoided. The main conclusion should be conveyed in a final paragraph.

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements should be brief but should include reference to sources of support. Sources of drugs not widely available commercially should be acknowledged.

References

In the text, references to other work should take the form: (Bolton & Kitamura, 1983) or, 'Bolton & Kitamura (1983) showed that…'. If there are more than two authors, the first author's name should be given followed by *et al*. (Bülbring *et al*., 1981).

References to 'unpublished observations' or 'personal communications' should be mentioned in the text only, and not included in the list of references. Papers which have been **submitted and accepted** for publication, should be included in the list of references with the names of the periodicals and 'in press'. These papers should also be submitted electronically, along with the article submission to the manuscript tracking system in the supplementary information section. **Papers in**

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The reference list at the end of the manuscript must be arranged alphabetically according to the surname of the first author. When the surnames of first authors are identical, the alphabetical order of the surnames of subsequent authors takes precedence over the year of publication. The AUTHORS' names are followed by the year of publication in brackets. If more than one paper by the same authors in one year are cited, a, b, c, etc. are placed after the year of publication, both in the text and in the list of references. The title of the article is given in full, followed by the *abbreviated title of the periodical*, **volume number** and first and last page numbers. The abbreviations used for periodicals are those of the most recent edition of the International List of Periodical Title Word Abbreviations. References to articles in books should consist of names of authors, year of publication, title of article followed by the *title of book*, the editors, **volume number**, if any, and page numbers, the place of publication and the names of the publishers. For example:

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Each table should be given on a separate page, paginated as part of the paper. Tables should be numbered consecutively with arabic numerals and the number should be followed by a brief descriptive caption, occupying not more than two lines, at the head of the table. The proportions of the text area should be borne in mind when designing the layout of tables. For the sake of clarity, tables should not have more than 120 characters to a line, with spaces between columns counted as four characters. The absolute maximum is 180 characters to a line. Each column should have a heading and the units of measurement should be given in parentheses in the heading. Tables should have horizontal rules between the column heading and column data and additionally at the foot of the table. Numbers should have four digit entries with no spaces and five digit entries should be spaced in 3 digit groupings. Additional information should be in the footnote not legend and 'call outs' are superscript letters (not symbols). Except in special circumstances, tables should be self-explanatory; the necessary descriptions should be at the bottom of the table.

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- The explanation of symbols must be given as a key in the Figure itself and not in the Figure legend.
- Please provide one full set of labelled Figures (i.e. complete with lettering and numbering, arrows, etc.). Please label the file with the corresponding author's name. Please state if figures have been submitted separately and if so also label figure files with author's name.
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Subsection figure parts (a, b, etc.) should be labelled in bold lower case (8pt. Univers bold) to match figure labelling.

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1. Lines should not be too thin to reproduce after reduction to on-page size (see Figure 1).
2. The symbols used for plotting data points should be large enough to show up clearly when reduced to on-page size (see Figure 1).
3. The symbols used for plotting data points should not be too similar, please use different mix of symbols (including open symbols if data points are closely spaced).
4. Symbols should be chosen from the following set if possible.
   ○ ● △ ▲ ▽ ▼ ◇ ◆ + ×.
5. Lettering/labelling should not be too small after reduction (see Figure 1).
6. When graphs are generated by computer, lines must not show noticeable stepping.
7. Some shading may not reproduce after reduction. Please make shading as 'coarse' as possible. The preferred order to shading of histogram columns is: open (clear), closed

(solid), cross-hatched (lines one way), heavily stippled, and other (if required).

The explanation of the symbols and column headings must be given as a key in the Figure itself and not in the Figure legend. Line Figures should normally have only left and bottom axes; box-style Figures and those using 3-dimensions are not acceptable.

Where the Figure is a composite of more than one graph, experimental record, etc., particular care is needed to minimize the spaces between each part, without overcrowding the entire Figure.

Figure 1 illustrates a simple properly-drawn graph in its original form (a) and in its reduced form (b) as it would appear in the Journal (single column width).

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Resolution	**72 dpi** (dots per inch)- or "Save for Web" if using Photoshop©
Format	**JPEG** for photographs **GIF** for line drawings or charts
Filenaming	Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.

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Resolution	**72 dpi** (dots per inch)- or "Save for Web" if using Photoshop©
Format	**JPEG** for photographs **GIF** for line drawings or charts
Filenaming	Please save image with .jpg or .gif extension to ensure it can be read by all platforms and graphics packages.

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Authors of review articles, whether unsolicited or commissioned, should first submit a title and a short summary (up to 500 words) or its scope to The Reviews Editor for approval, in principle. Upon initial approval of the short summary the Review should be submitted in the following format:

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Up to 8 keywords should be included on the same page as the non-standard abbreviations.

The Review should be between 5000–8000 words.

Sub headings to be in italics and should not be numbered.

Authors are encouraged to include diagrammatic material or published data records as appropriate.

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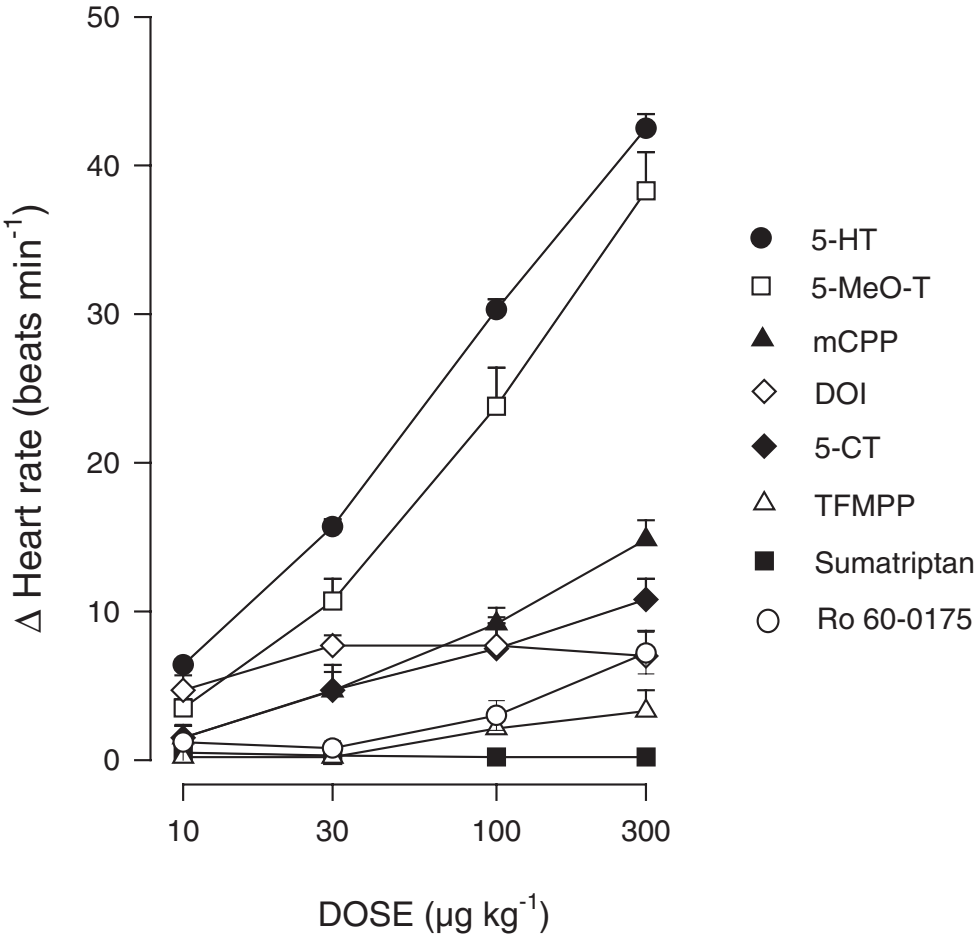
ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Physico-chemical quantities

The *British Journal of Pharmacology* uses the SI symbols for units. The following prefixes for multiples of units should


50
40
30
20
10
0
Δ Heart rate (beats min-1)
10
30
100
300
DOSE (μg kg-1)
5-HT
5-MeO-T
mCPP
DOI
5-CT
TFMPP
Sumatriptan
Ro 60-0175

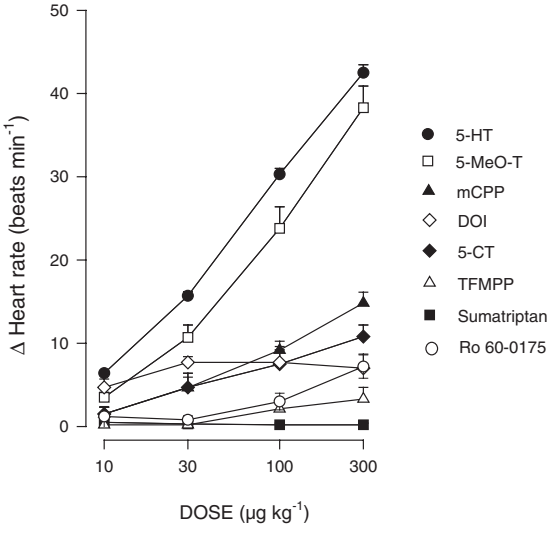

50
40
30
20
10
0
Δ Heart rate (beats min-1)
10
30
100
300
DOSE (μg kg-1)
5-HT
5-MeO-T
mCPP
DOI
5-CT
TFMPP
Sumatriptan
Ro 60-0175

Figure 1

be used:

Multiplier	*Prefix*	*Symbol*
10^{-1}	deci	d
10^{-2}	centi	c
10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{-12}	pico	p
10^{-15}	femto	f
10^{-18}	atto	a
10^{3}	kilo	k
10^{6}	mega	M
10^{9}	giga	G
10^{12}	tera	T

Thus, micron = μm; ångstrom = 0.1 nm. Mixed prefixes are not permissible, thus m μg should be ng. The symbols d (10^{-1}) and c (10^{-2}) should be restricted to those occasions on which there is a strongly felt need for them (e.g. cm).

SYMBOLS

Symbols denoting physical quantities are usually printed as italic capitals (indicated by single underline in typescript). A dash over the symbols indicates a mean value; a dot over the symbol indicates a time derivative. Suffixes may be used to indicate 'where' and 'what'. They are printed as inferiors on that line. Multiple suffixes should be avoided if a simpler symbol adequately defined is unambiguous, but if necessary should be separated by commas e.g. P_{A,CO_2} denotes partial pressure of CO_2 in alveolar air.

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Authors should also consult *Nomenclature Guidelines for Authors* contained in this issue of the Journal. The abbreviations listed below may be used without definition. Other chemicals, drugs, enzymes and units must be written in full at first mention in the title, summary and again in the text. At first mention they should be followed by the abbreviation in brackets. Subsequently, the abbreviation alone may be used.

Use abbreviations sparingly as extensive use can make the text hard to follow.

Use of solidus

The solidus should be avoided as far as possible and the negative index substituted, e.g. mg kg^{-1} rather than mg/kg; pmol $mm^{-2}\,min^{-1}$ rather than pmol/mm^2/min.

Physico-chemical quantities

Quantities	*Preferred Unit*	*Symbol*
Amount of substance	mole	mol
Capacitance	Farad	F
Charge	Coulomb	C
Concentration	moles per litre	M or mol l^{-1}
Current	Ampere	A
Electrical conductance	Siemens	S
Potential difference	Volt	V
Flow (blood or other gas or liquid)	Litres per second (or min)	1 s^{-1} or 1 min^{-1}
Flow (air or other gas)	Litres per second (or min)	1 s^{-1} or 1 min^{-1}
Force	Newton	N
Frequency	Hertz	HZ
Length	meter	m
Magnetic flux	tesla	T
Molecular Weight	Dalton	Da
Power	Watt	W
Pressure	Pascal	Pa
Radioactivity	Becquerel	Bq preferred to Ci (3.7×10^{10} Bq)
Resistance	Ohm	Ω
Volume	litre	l
Weight	gram	g

Chemical and biological abbreviations

about	$\sim$
acetylcholine	ACh
acetylcholinesterase	AChE
acetyl Coenzyme A	Acetyl CoA
adenosine diphosphate	ADP
adenosine monophosphate	AMP
adenosine triphosphate	ATP
adenosine triphosphatase	ATPase
adenosine 3′5′ cyclic monophosphate	cAMP
adenylyl cyclase	AC
agonist potency	pD_2
alternating current	a.c.
γ-aminobutyric acid	GABA
amino-3-hydroxy-5-methylisooxazole-4-propionic acid	AMPA
analysis of variance	ANOVA
anhydrous	anhyd
angiotensin converting enzyme	ACE
antagonist potency	pD_2
approximate(ly)	approx.
approximately equals	$\approx$
artificial cerebrospinal fluid	aCSF
blood pressure	BP
bovine serum albumin	BSA
cardiovascular system	CVS
catechol-*O*-methyl transferase	COMT
central nervous system	CNS
centrifugal force	*g*
cerebrospinal fluid	CSF
choline acetyltransferase	ChAT
coenzyme A	CoA
complementary deoxyribonucleic acid	cDNA
complementary ribonucleic acid	cRNA
correlation coefficient	*r*
cyclooxygenase	COX
day(s)	d
degree of freedom (statistics)	d.f.
deoxyribonucleic acid	DNA
deoxyribonuclease	DNase
dextro-(absolute configuration)	D-
dextro-(optical rotation)	(+)-
diacyglycerol	DAG
3,4-dihydroxyphenylanine	DOPA
3,4-dihydroxyphenylethylamine	dopamine
direct current	d.c.
disintegrations per minute	dpm
dissociation constant	K_D
edition	edn
editor(s)	ed.
effective concentration 50% of maximum response	EC_{50}
effective dose 50% of maximum response	ED_{50}
electrocardiogram	ECG
electroconvulsive therapy	ECT
electroencephalogram	EEG
electromyogram	EMG
electron spin resonance	ESR
end plate potential	epp
equilibrium constant	*K*

ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid	EDTA
ethylene glycol-bis (β-amino ethyl ether) tetraacetic acid	EGTA
excitatory postsynaptic current	epsc
excitatory postsynaptic potential	epsp
extracellular fluid	ECF
GABA transaminase	GABA-T
gas-liquid chromatography	GLC
glomerular filtration rate	GFR
glutamic acid decarboxylase	GAD
guanosine triphosphate	GTP
guanosine 5′-(3-thiotriphosphate)	GTPγS
guanosine 3′5′ cyclic monophosphate	cGMP
guanylyl cyclase	GC
haemoglobin	Hb
half-life	$t_{1/2}$
high performance liquid chromatography	HPLC
hour or hours	h
human serum albumin	HSA
hydrogen-ion concentration	$[H^+]$
hydrogen-ion activity, negative logarithm of (hydrogen-ion exponent)	pH
6-hydroxydopamine	6-OHDA
N-[2-hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N′-[2-ethanesulphonic acid]	HEPES
5-hydroxytryptamine	5-HT
immunoglobins	IgA;IgD;IgE; IgG;IgM
inhibitor constant	Ki
inhibitor constant negative	pKi
inhibitory concentration (e.g. 50% inhibition of maximum)	IC_{50}
inhibitory postsynaptic current	ipsc
inhibitory postsynaptic potential	ipsp
international unit	iu
intra-arterial	i.a.
intracellular fluid	ICF
intradermal	i.d.
intramuscular	i.m.
intraperitoneal	i.p.
intracerebroventricular	i.c.v.
intrathecal	i.t.
intravenous	i.v.
isotope (atomic mass) e.g. iodine-131	^{131}I
isotopically substituted compounds e.g.	[^{14}C]-ethanol
laevo-(absolute configuration)	L
laevo-(optical rotation)	(−)-
lethal dose (in 50% of population)	LD_{50}
lipoxygenase	LOX
magnetic resonance imaging	MRI
maximum	max.
mean arterial pressure	MAP
mean value of (statistics)	$\bar{x}$
messenger ribonucleic acid	mRNA
Michaelis constant	K_M
miniature end plate potential	mepp
minimum	min.
minute or minutes	min
monoamine oxidase	MAO
nitric oxide	NO
nitric oxide synthase	NOS
N-methyl-D-aspartate	NMDA
non-specific binding	NSB
nuclear magnetic resonance	NMR
number	no. or No.
number of observations (statistics)	n
optical density	OD
oral	p.o
page/pages	p/pp
parts per million	p.p.m.
per cent	%
phenylethanolamine N-methyltransferase	PNMT
phosphatidyl inositol	PI
phosphodiesterase	PDE
phospholipase (A_2,C,D)	PL(A_2,C, D)
polymerase chain reaction	PCR
probability (significance level in a statistical test)	P
protein kinase (A,B,C,G)	PK (A,B,C,G)
radioimmunoassay	RIA
renal blood flow	RBF
ribosomal RNA	rRNA
revolutions per minute	rpm
ribonucleic acid	RNA
second or seconds	s
somatostatin	SST
standard deviation (of observed sample)	s.d.
standard error (of estimate mean value)	s.e.mean
subcutaneous	s.c.
sum (statistical):	
of hypothetical population	Σ
of observed sample	S or Σ
thin layer chromatography	TLC
time, clock 24 h clock used e.g 18 h 30 min	t
time constant	τ
2-amino-2-hydroxymethyl-propan-1,3,- diol	Tris
transfer ribonucleic acid	tRNA
tyrosine hydroxylase	TH
tyrosine kinase	TK
ultraviolet	u.v.
unit	u
volume by volume	$v\,v^{-1}$
wavelength	λ
weight by volume	$w\,v^{-1}$

LICENCE TO PUBLISH

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