

Chemical Communications

Notice to Authors, 1977

Refereeing Policy—*Chemical Communications* is intended as a forum for preliminary accounts of original and significant work that is likely to prove of wide general appeal or of exceptional specialist interest, and its scientific content will be restricted to such communications. The policy of the Society remains that only a fraction of research work warrants duplicate publication, and communications will be subject to scrutiny by referees. Urgent need for the broadcast of the information must outweigh the general desire to avoid multiple publication. Priority is therefore not an important factor. The needs of the potential user must be considered, not the needs of the authors.

Authors are therefore required to submit, together with three copies of the communication, two copies of a statement of the reasons why urgent publication is desirable. Further, authors are encouraged to indicate, early in the manuscript, the urgent or novel aspect of the work for the benefit of readers.

It should be noted that communications are normally restricted to *ca.* 600 words (1 printed page, to include formulae, Tables, and Figures); supplementary data not to be published may, however, be submitted for the referees' consideration.

Acceptance by two independent referees will lead to immediate publication; communications will not be rejected on the recommendation of one referee only, and authors of refused communications will have the right to appeal, through the Editor, to the Primary Journals Committee.

Short articles which have the detail of content and argument appropriate to the definitive paper but lack urgency should be submitted to the Journal.

Administration—An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by return of post to the author submitting a manuscript. If, within a reasonable time such a document has not been received, the author is advised to contact the Editor. As soon as the referees' recommendations have been received by the Editor, authors will be informed whether the communication has been accepted.

Urgency—The Primary Journals Committee has instructed the editorial staff of *Chemical Communications* that if authors fail to reply to referees' recommendations, or to return proofs, within one month of the date of dispatch the communication concerned may be regarded as abandoned.

Editing—Editing will be as light as is consistent with a reasonable standard of presentation, clarity of expression, and the conciseness required in *Chemical Communications*.

Manuscripts—Careful attention to the following points will aid rapid publication.

- (a) Three copies of the manuscript *must* be provided. One should be a top-quality original, in double-line spacing, typed on one side of the sheet only. Good quality non-greasy paper must be used. Margins of at least 1½ inches must be left at the top, bottom, and left-hand side.
- (b) The first page should be set out as follows:
 - (i) Title of communication, capitals for first letter of each noun and adjective *only*.
Note: The inclusion of "Series or Part numbers" in the title of communications is not allowed.
 - (ii) Authors' names, with one forename for each author, (doubly underlined) preceded by "By" on the same line.
The name of the author who will deal with correspondence arising out of publication of the communication will be indicated by an asterisk (*) placed after it.
 - (iii) Authors' address, singly underlined and enclosed in parentheses.
 - (iv) An extra line of space.
 - (v) A one-sentence summary.
 - (vi) An extra line of space.
 - (vii) Main text, first paragraph not indented, with the first word doubly underlined.
- (c) Spacings must be those required in print, *e.g.*, each paragraph must be indented. A space must be left after numerals (except where these occur in chemical names), when these qualify units (*e.g.*, 3 g), but not when they are multiples (10³k).
- (d) Attention should be paid to underlining, and punctuation (or its absence) in symbols and chemical names. Greek letters should be explained by marginal notes (*e.g.*, Gk nu) and *not* underlined.
- (e) Alterations must be made by complete erasure, or by crossing out the error and writing the correct version above it.
- (f) Bibliographic references are indicated in the text by superior numerals and must be *cited* in numerical sequence. The corresponding footnotes should include the author's initials given before the surname and should be set out on a separate sheet.
- (g) Captions to illustrations should preferably be presented on a separate sheet.
- (h) Displayed formulae should be carefully and unambiguously drawn on a separate sheet. They should be numbered for ease of reference in the text.

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- (i) Illustrations should be good-quality Indian ink drawings suitable for immediate reduction to about 2 inches in width. Lettering should be clearly but lightly inserted in pencil—the printer will set it in type. Drawings requiring additional draughtsmanship are likely to cause delay.

The Title—The choice of the wording of the title is of greatest importance, since it is from this that the important keywords used in information retrieval are taken. The title should clearly and accurately indicate the contents of the communication and should be expressed in adequate scientific terms that can function as 'points of entry' for retrieval purposes. Brevity in a title, though desirable, should be balanced against its accuracy and usefulness.

The Summary—The *Summary* should be a one-sentence account of the discovery being announced. It must clearly indicate the content which makes the communication important or urgent and be informative rather than indicative, *i.e.* be of the form:

"Reaction of sodium with ethanol in dry benzene gives the monomeric sodium ethoxide" and not "The reaction of sodium with ethanol in dry benzene has been studied".

Nomenclature—For many years the Society has actively encouraged the use of standard I.U.P.A.C. nomenclature and symbolism in its publications as an aid to the accurate and unambiguous communication of chemical information between authors and readers. Although the I.U.P.A.C. rules for naming organic compounds have now gained wide acceptance amongst chemists, mainly because they have been in existence for a number of years, those for naming inorganic compounds are of more recent origin and for this reason their acceptance is less general.

In order to encourage authors to use I.U.P.A.C. nomenclature rules when drafting papers, attention is drawn to the following publications in which both the rules themselves and guidance on their use are given.

'Nomenclature of Organic Chemistry, Sections A, B, and C,' Butterworths, London, 2nd Edition, 1971.

'Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry,' Butterworths, London, 1971.

'Manual of Symbols and Terminology for Physicochemical Quantities and Units,' Butterworths, London, 1970.

In addition to the above publications, provisional rules for the naming of organometallic compounds, amino-acids,

carbohydrates, carotenoids, and steroids, and rules of stereochemistry are available from the:

I.U.P.A.C. Secretariat,
Bank Court Chambers,
2—3 Pound Way,
Cowley Centre,
OXFORD OX4 3YF.

It is recommended that where there are no I.U.P.A.C. rules for the naming of particular compounds or authors find difficulty in applying the existing rules, they should seek the advice of the Society's editorial staff.

Brevity—In order that the maximum number of communications can be published in the space available, individual articles must be as brief as possible (see para. 3 of Notice), and should be restricted to the central urgent theme; historical introduction, experimental detail, physical data, and mechanistic conjecture will normally not be published, and detail essential to the proof of soundness should be given in a covering letter for assessment by the referees.

Illustrations, tables, and graphic formulae are space-consuming and will be published only if vital to the exposition of the central theme.

Acknowledgements—Only personal acknowledgements and those indicating financial support of the research will be published.

Footnote Indications—Because of their special use to indicate the author to whom correspondence should be addressed, asterisks are not available to indicate footnotes to the main text.

They may, of course, continue to be used in recognised specialised scientific terms (*e.g.*, $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ transitions).

Proofs—Proofs will normally be sent by first-class mail—by airmail where appropriate—to the person submitting the article or to the person designated by him.

Reprints—A reprint order form will be circulated to authors with proofs. Its early return will facilitate production both of *Chemical Communications* and of the reprints.

The reprint will have a self-cover, *i.e.*, be printed as a four-page leaflet with the title and reference repeated on the front page.

Chemical Communications

Notice to Authors

Publication of X-Ray Crystallographic Work in the Journal

Preamble

At a meeting of the Primary Journals Committee held in October, 1975 a sub-committee was set up to consider policy with regard to publication in the *Journal* of both preliminary communications and substantive papers concerned with X-ray crystallographic work. This step was taken in the light of correspondence received by the Society which indicated concern by many referees on the problems created by the large number of routine X-ray crystallographic studies submitted to the Society as a result of the increasing ease of carrying out such work.

Since the sub-committee's terms of reference were wide it was able to consider both this problem and others relating to publication of X-ray crystallographic work in all sections of the *Journal*. Its recommendations which are outlined below fall into two groups: those concerned with preliminary communications and those with full papers. These recommendations have been endorsed by the Primary Journals Committee and now represent the Society's policy with regard to crystallographic work submitted for publication in its primary journals.

Preliminary Communications

(1) Evidence was presented to the sub-committee that a major problem associated with the publication of preliminary reports of crystallographic work in *J.C.S. Chem. Comm.* arose as a result of the non-availability to interested readers of the atomic co-ordinates associated with the work. Although in the normal course of events such data would be expected to appear in the follow-up paper, many cases were cited where the period between publication of the preliminary report and the substantive paper was many years or the full papers never appeared in print. The evidence presented suggested that there was considerable disquiet among crystallographers at this state of affairs. In an attempt to improve this situation and after consultation with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (C.C.D.C.) the Society has resolved to press authors of preliminary reports of X-ray crystallographic work to submit together with their communication certain material for deposition with the Centre.* This material will be checked at the Centre for internal consistency and, afterwards, will be available on request to interested readers. The procedure to be adopted will be as follows:

- (i) In addition to the communication and the customary covering letter of justification the authors will be expected to provide a complete list of refined co-ordinates (in the form of computer print-out and NOT a retyped version) and a table of bond distances unless these are given in full in the manuscript. If the complete

'crystal data' (i.e. cell dimensions and standard deviations, space group, number Z of formula units per cell) are not listed in the manuscript these must also be submitted.

It should be emphasised that the co-ordinates submitted for deposition, whilst not necessarily being 'fully' refined, should correspond to the stage of refinement described in the preliminary communication and should be the set for which the R factor is quoted. It follows that all bond distances given in the preliminary communication should correspond, apart from any rounding-off errors, with bond distances which can be calculated from the deposited co-ordinates.

- (ii) The communication will be assessed in the customary fashion, the material for deposition also being made available to the referees concerned. If the communication is accepted the Society will forward the material for deposition to the C.C.D.C. A statement will be made in the communication that particular material is available from the Centre on request.
- (iii) The C.C.D.C. will acknowledge receipt of the material. When a communication is published the deposited material will be evaluated and included in their files as part of their normal abstracting cycle. The evaluation consists of recalculation of the bond lengths from the author's co-ordinates and comparison of these with the author's values. All data on the Centre's files have to pass this internal consistency test. It will not, however, be possible for the evaluation to be made before the appearance of the preliminary communication in print.
- (iv) Finally, where an author plans not to follow-up his preliminary communication with a full paper he will be required to submit, in addition to the material outlined above, a copy of the structure factor table for the work presented for deposition with the British Library, Lending Division. In this way it too will be available to interested readers.

(2) In order to aid the readability of communications it is recommended that each should contain a line drawing of the compound under discussion where appropriate.

* Applies only to compounds containing organic carbon atoms.

Papers in Dalton and Perkin Transactions

The sub-committee considered evidence which indicated that X-ray crystallographic papers submitted to the *Journal* were assessed in a less rigorous fashion than those reporting other areas of work. Although the sub-committee felt that this claim was largely unsubstantiated it was agreed that improvement of both assessment procedure and presentation of work was possible. The following recommendations have, therefore, been adopted.

- (1) Crystallographic papers will be assessed for their chemical as well as their crystallographic interest.
- (2) Unless both specifically requested by the author and recommended by the referees for publica-

tion, vibrational parameters will be routinely deposited with the structure factors as a Supplementary Publication. Where vibrational parameters are to be published they should be in the form of U_{ij} with units of \AA^2 .

Referees are reminded that they may, at their discretion, recommend other material for deposition where in their view its inclusion in the parent paper is not justified by its interest.

- (3) Each paper should contain a line drawing of the compound under discussion where appropriate in addition to the usual crystallographic figures.