

nature

MANUSCRIPT CHECKLIST

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Letters to *Nature*

- Title no longer than 90 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph referenced and no longer than 300 words
- No subheadings in main text
- Methods no longer than 800 words
- No more than 30 references

Articles

- Title no longer than 90 characters (including spaces)
- First paragraph unreferenced and no longer than 150 words
- No more than 6 main subheadings of up to 40 characters (including spaces)
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- No more than 50 references

All manuscripts

- Abbreviations and symbols defined on first use
- Italic font used for variables, genes and non-English languages; bold font for vectors
- Equations and special characters in Word in 'normal text' or Symbol font (Word Equation Editor avoided where possible)
- Brief title provided for each figure, table and box
- Figure legends no more than 100 words each
- Electronic (disk labelled with filename, format and manuscript reference number) and hard copy of text supplied
- Signed competing interests statement submitted with manuscript (<http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/policy/form.html>)
- Database accession numbers included for sequences determined in this paper
- Structure data in *Nature* standard tables

For TeX users

Word or rtf formats are preferred, unless there is very extensive use of special characters or equations. Such formats enable on-screen subediting and the preparation of a 'pre-proof', when the editing can be checked before formal proofs (including figures) are prepared. We have found that this minimizes the chance of errors being inadvertently introduced.

- Word conversion not practicable

Contact our subeditors at subeditors@nature.com for further help and advice on preparing text for publication.

Manuscript number

Author name

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Artwork

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Electronic figure formats

- Preferred file formats for line artwork and graphs are eps, postscript, pdf and Illustrator
- Preferred file formats for photographic images are TIFF and Photoshop
- For a full list of acceptable electronic formats, see <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/final>

When preparing and sending figures

- Text in an editable format and in sans serif font (Helvetica, Arial)
- Text and lines clearly visible when figure is sized for page: type size 6–8 point; lines preferably 0.5 point (0.18 mm)
- Colour images in CMYK (not RGB) mode
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- Good-quality hard copies of all figures supplied
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