

Information for authors

Human Behaviour and Brain publishes only research articles and reviews.

Prior to submission, authors who believe their manuscripts would benefit from professional editing are encouraged to use an editing service. *Human Behaviour and Brain* does not take responsibility for or endorse these services, and their use has no bearing on acceptance of a manuscript for publication.

Categories of manuscripts

Peer-Reviewed Research articles must include an abstract, an introduction, and sections with brief informative subheadings, and references. Supplementary materials should be limited to information that is not essential for the general understanding of the research presented in the main text.

Reviews must include an abstract, an introduction that outlines the main themes, brief subheadings, and an outline of important unresolved questions. Reviews do not contain supplementary material.

Requirements for Research Articles

Please submit your Research Article or Review Article to *Human Behaviour and Brain* in Microsoft Word's .docx (preferred) or LaTeX format. There are no restrictions on the number of pages or figures.

Cover letter: We require authors to submit a cover letter with their submitted manuscript which include:

- Basic information: your name, paper title, correct journal name
- Critical scientific information: What is new and why your work is important and appropriate for publication in *Human Behaviour and Brain*
- Any information about ethical issues such as potential conflicts of interest, material transfer agreements, posting on preprint servers
- Your suggestion of a Deputy and an Associate Editor best qualified to handle your paper. This is an important designation, so please review our board carefully before you make your suggestion. You can review our Editorial Board at <http://www.humanbab.net/editorial-board/>.
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Research Articles have no word limit; the body text must include the sections in the list below (any reasonable section order is acceptable). Please do not use paragraph breaks in the title, author list, or abstract.

Title, authors and their affiliations
Abstract
Introduction
Results
Discussion
Materials and Methods
References (See format requirements)
Acknowledgments
Figures and tables
Supplementary Materials

Formatting details in text

Submissions for Research Articles and Reviews should be double-spaced and written in English. We prefer the use throughout of a standard font, preferably 12-point Times New Roman. Please follow these guidelines in formatting your manuscript and numbering and providing captions for your figures, tables and other materials. All manuscripts should be **no longer than 13,000 words**, although longer manuscripts will be considered when warranted.

Title, authors and their affiliations

- **Title:** Titles should be no more than 3 typeset lines (generally 135 characters including spaces) and should be comprehensible to a broad scientific audience. The organism studied should be included.
- **Author Line:** List the full names of all authors in the order intended for publication. Include asterisks to designate co-corresponding authors and superscripts to indicate equal contributions.
- **Author Affiliation:** Include department, institution, and complete address, with the ZIP/postal code, for each author. Use superscripts to match authors with institutions. Multiple affiliations are allowed.
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- **Keywords:** Keywords are listed below the article abstract. At least three keywords are required at submission.

Abstract

Provide an abstract of **no more than 150 words**. Abstracts should explain to the general reader the major contributions of the article. Abbreviations should be accessible to a broad scientific audience; abbreviations that are specific to a particular field should be defined at first mention in the text.

Introduction

The manuscript should start with a brief introduction that lies out the problem addressed by the research and describes the importance of the paper. The scientific question being investigated should be described in detail. The introduction should provide sufficient

background information to make the article understandable to readers in other disciplines, and provide enough contexts to ensure that the implications of the experimental findings are clear.

Results

The results should describe the experiments performed and the findings observed. The results section should be divided into subsections to delineate different experimental themes. Subheadings should either be all phrases or all complete sentences. All data must be shown either in the main text or in the Supplementary Materials.

All data should be presented in the Results. No data should be presented for the first time in the Discussion. Data should be appropriately quantified. Subheadings must be either all complete sentences or all phrases. Subheadings should not end in a period. Your paper may have as many subheadings as are necessary.

Figures and tables must be called out in numerical order. For example, the first mention of any panel of Fig. 3 cannot precede the first mention of all panels of Fig. 2. The supplementary figures (for example, fig. S1) and tables (table S1) must also be called out in numerical order.

Equations can be included. Please use the legacy equation editor in Word (Insert menu; select insert object; select word equation) or use MathType (recommended). If you enter equations in simple LaTeX, check that they will convert accurately (Word 2007 and higher can convert simple LaTeX equations). Display equations should be numbered at the right—(1), (2), etc. Images of equations are not acceptable.

Discussion

The discussion describes the conclusions that can be drawn from the results, as well as the significance and implications of the research. A paragraph discussing the limitations of the study should be included and any issues that will need to be addressed before application to animal, human, or environmental health should also be described.

Materials and Methods

The materials and methods section must be presented after results and discussion. It should provide sufficient information to allow replication of the results. Describe the objectives and design of the study as well as pre-specified components.

In addition, include a section that fully describes the statistical methods with enough detail to enable a knowledgeable reader with access to the original data to verify the results. The values for N , P , and the specific statistical test performed for each experiment should be included in the appropriate figure legend or main text.

For papers in the life sciences that involve a method that would benefit from the publication of a step-by-step protocol, we encourage authors to consider submitting a detailed protocol.

References

In-text references should be cited in square brackets with a number [1]. Multiple reference citations are separated by commas [2, 3] or, if citing more than two consecutive references, by an en dash [4-6].

End lists references should be in the order in which references are cited, first through the text, then through the figure and table legends, and finally through the Supplementary Materials. List each reference only once. Each reference should have a unique number. Do not use op. cit., ibid., or et al. See below for details of citation style.

Citation style

Human Behaviour and Brain uses a complete citation format that includes all authors, full titles of journal articles, the journal abbreviation, the volume, the first and last page, and the year of publication.

The abbreviations for journal names are taken from the Bibliographic Guide for Editors and Authors (BGEA) or Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Data Base *(BIOSIS), a more recent publication. When in doubt, provide the journal's complete name. Spell out cities that are listed after a journal name: *Acta Zool. (Stockholm).

For references to in-press articles, please confirm with the cited journal that the article is in press and include a DOI and online publication date. Unpublished abstracts of papers presented at meetings or references to “data not shown” are not permitted. References should be cited in numerical order as they appear in text, and all references cited in the main text should be included in the main manuscript file. Include a separate citation list for references cited in the SM. Include the full title for each cited article. Provide volume numbers for journal articles as applicable; provide DOI numbers if volume numbers are not available. Provide inclusive page ranges for journal articles and book chapters.

Only articles that have been published or accepted by a named publication, or that have been uploaded to a recognized preprint server (e.g., arXiv, bioRxiv), should be in the reference list; papers in preparation should be mentioned in the text with a list of authors (or initials if any of the authors are co-authors of the present contribution).

Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments should be gathered into a paragraph after the final numbered reference. This section should start by acknowledging non-author contributions, and then should provide information under the following headings **Funding**: include complete funding information; **Author contributions**: a complete list of contributions to the paper. **Competing interests**: competing interests of any of the authors must be listed (all authors must also fill out the Conflict of Interest form. Where authors have no competing interests, this should also be declared. **Data and materials availability**: Any restrictions on materials such as MTAs. Accession numbers to any data relating to the paper and deposited in a public database. If all data is in the paper and supplementary materials include the sentence “all data is available in the manuscript or the supplementary materials.” (All data, code, and materials used in the analysis must be available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing or extending the analysis.)

Figure legends

Figure legends (i.e., captions) should be double-spaced in numerical order and included in the text file immediately after each figure. Each figure legend should start with a short boldface title beginning with (for example) **Fig. 1**. All figure titles should be phrases **or** sentences; do not mix the two styles. For figures with multiple panels, the first sentence of the legend should be a brief overview of the entire figure. Individual figure panels are in boldface when first mentioned in a legend: **(A)**, **(B)**, etc.

Figures

You may include up to **a total of six figures and/or tables (combined)** throughout the manuscript. Figures should be called out within the text. Figures should be numbered in the order of their citation in the text. Figures should be included at the end of the manuscript text. They should be submitted as part of the online submission embedded in the Word file (with legend below). See below for detailed instructions on preparation of and preferred formats for your figures.

Tables

Each table should have a brief title above the table. Table footnotes should be below the table. They should be called out within the text and numbered in the order of their citation in the text. Each table should be preceded by a legend that starts with a short boldface title beginning with (for example) **Table 1**. Footnotes should contain information relevant to specific cells of the table. Tables should be included at the end of the manuscript text, in portrait or landscape orientation. Avoid multipart tables (Table 1A, Table 1B).

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary Materials (SM) can be various types of auxiliary information of use to readers, including material not presentable in a text format. We encourage authors to provide original data in SM. We can host supplementary figures and legends, detailed materials and methods, video files, audio files, original data files, and large data sets.

All SM elements should be accompanied by a brief text description, similar to a caption. The first sentence of this caption should be a title, and the titles of the SM items should be listed immediately before the References section. The SM should not be essential to the general understanding of the research presented in the main text of the paper. See below for more information about preferred file formats and file sizes.

Footnotes and Endnotes

Footnotes and Endnotes are not permitted. Information normally placed in footnotes or endnotes should be incorporated into the main text or Supplementary Materials and, when appropriate, cited following journal guidelines.

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Figure layout

Electronic figures should be sized to fit on single 8.5'' × 11'' or A4 paper, preferably at 3.5, 5.0, or 7.3 inches wide (corresponding to 1, 1.5, or 2 columns of text). In laying out information in a figure, the objective is to maximize the space given to presentation of the data.

Please follow these guidelines for your figures.

- The figure's title should be at the beginning of the figure legend, not within the figure itself.
- Include the figure's identifying number (e.g., "Fig. 1") on the same manuscript page that includes the figure.
- Keys to symbols, if needed, should be kept as simple as possible and be positioned so they do not needlessly enlarge the figure. Details can be put into the figure legend.
- Use solid symbols for plotting data if possible (unless data overlap or there are multiple symbols). For legibility when figures are reduced, symbol sizes should be a minimum of 6 points, and line widths should be a minimum of 0.5 points.
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Human Behaviour and Brain does not allow certain electronic enhancements or manipulations of micrographs, gels, or other digital images. Figures assembled from multiple photographs or images must indicate the separate parts with lines between them. Linear adjustment of contrast, brightness, or colour must be applied to an entire image or plate equally. Nonlinear adjustments must be specified in the figure legend. Selective enhancement or alteration of one part of an image is not acceptable. In addition, *Human Behaviour and Brain* may ask authors of papers returned for revision to provide additional documentation of their primary data.

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We prefer that the initial submission be submitted to submit@humanbab.net as a Word file that contains all components of the paper. Create a single file (see above for correct order) consisting of all components of the paper. Please ensure that the manuscript components are ordered as follows: Title page, Abstract, Introduction, Results, Discussion, Materials and Methods, References (See citation style), Acknowledgments, Figures and Tables, Supplementary Materials. Supplementary Materials that cannot be incorporated into a Word file must be sent to us separately (see below).

Figures

See the above instructions for creating your original figures. For initial submission, the figure files should be incorporated into the main text .docx file if possible. If not, they should be uploaded as separate PDFs, although the following formats are also acceptable: .jpg, or .png. **Figures prepared in PowerPoint are not allowed.**

Supplementary Materials

Text and figures. Include supporting text (including supplementary materials and methods, tables, and figures) at the end of the main manuscript file, in a separate section titled Supplementary Materials, if this can be easily done. Alternatively, Supplementary Materials can be included as a separate .docx file.

Datasets. Supply Excel (.xls or .xlsx), RTF, PDF, CSV, or TXT files. Datasets will be published in raw format and will not be edited or composed.

Video files. Acceptable formats for videos are MP4, AVI, MOV, MPEG, and WMV. Keep videos short and the display window small to minimize the file size of the video. Supply caption information with the videos. Edit longer sequences into several small pieces with captions specific to each video sequence. Video files should be no more than 10 MB in size.

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Authors of revision or resubmissions must provide publication-ready source files. Main text should be double spaced, with continuous line numbers, and with highlights of changes. To help ensure high production quality of figures, we encourage authors to submit figure files in image file types: .jpg or .png. Revised papers must be received within 2 months or they will be treated as new submissions. If you require additional time, please contact submit@humanbab.net.

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The cover letter should include a point-by-point response to the comments of the reviewers and editor. A detailed description of all changes made is required before *Human Behaviour and Brain* can process the revision.

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 - Any information needed to ensure a fair review process, including related manuscripts submitted to other journals
 - Names of colleagues who have reviewed the paper
 - A statement that none of the material has been published or is under consideration elsewhere, including the Internet.
 - Names, telephone, and e-mail addresses for all authors, including selection of one to be corresponding author.
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5. Legends for all figures and tables
6. All data (no use of “data not shown”; no citations of unpublished results)
7. Descriptions of all statistical tests
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9. Competing interest form

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The abbreviations for journal names are taken from the Bibliographic Guide for Editors and Authors (BGEA) or Serial Sources for the BIOSIS Data Base *(BIOSIS), a more recent publication. When in doubt, provide the journal's complete name. Spell out cities that are listed after a journal name: *Acta Zool. (Stockholm).

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R. Marisca, T. Hoche, E. Agirre, L. J. Hoodless, W. Barkey, F. Auer, G. Castelo-Branco & T. Czopka, Functionally distinct subgroups of oligodendrocyte precursor cells integrate neural activity and execute myelin formation. *Nat. Neurosci.* **23**, 363-374 (2020).

Cite research datasets in the references and include authors, title, publisher (repository name), identifier (DOI expressed as a URL), and date of deposition as follows:

Z. Hao, A. AghaKouchak, N. Nakhjiri, A. Farahmand, Data from “Global Integrated Drought Monitoring and Prediction System (GIDMaPS) data sets.” Figshare. Available at <https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.853801>. Deposited 23 May 2014.

Preprints are cited as follows:

J. K. Trevathan, A. J. Asp, E. N. Nicolai, J. M. Trevathan, N.A. Kremer, T.D. Kozai, D. Cheng, M. Schachter, J. J. Nassi, S. L. Otte, J. G. Parker, J. L. Lujan, ProfileK. A. Ludwig. Calcium imaging in freely-moving mice during electrical stimulation of deep brain structures. Preprint at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/460220v2> (2020).

Use MEDLINE/PubMed abbreviations of journal titles or use the full journal title for any journals not indexed in MEDLINE.

Books are cited as follows:

J. B. Carroll, Ed., *Language, Thought and Reality, Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf* (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1956).

D. Curtis, in *Clinical Neurology of Development*, B. Walters, Ed. (Oxford Univ. Press, New York, 1983), pp. 60-73.

Principles and Procedures for Evaluating the Toxicity of Household Substances (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC, 1977). [organization as author and publisher]

Competing Interest

Human Behaviour and Brain requires authors to declare any competing financial and/or non-financial interests in relation to the work described, and acknowledge all funding sources supporting the work. The corresponding author is responsible for submitting a competing interests' statement on behalf of all authors of the paper to ensure that all authors have disclosed any competing interests.

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Updated on May 5, 2020