

Herpetological Review
Standard Articles
Author Guidelines and Instructions
updated June 2026

IMPORTANT: For initial submissions of *HR* Standard Articles, we are introducing format-neutral submissions. This means that while initial submission should include all the basic components of the article, including full text, tables, and figures, the specific formatting and stylistic guidelines are at your discretion. If your manuscript is accepted, then during the revision stage, authors are required to edit their manuscript to conform with *HR* formatting guidelines (described below).

AUTHOR GUIDELINES

These guidelines allow to all Standard Articles, including Articles, Techniques, Herpetological Nomenclature, Herpetological History, Points of View, and Letters to the Editor.

Standard Articles are limited to 5000 words and should advance our understanding, provide commentary or discussion relevant to the type of article that it is. Sections of Articles and Techniques submissions should typically include Introduction, Materials and Methods (or Methods), Results, and Discussion, Acknowledgments, and Literature Cited. Information and formatting guidelines for each of these sections is described below. For other submissions, there is more flexibility on the sections headers that can be used, and these should be utilized to help improve the organization and flow of the manuscript. Major section headers should be centered and in small caps, with a line break above and below the text. Subsection headers can also be used to organize your text, and these should primarily occur in the methods and results sections. Subsection headers are left justified, italicized, and have major words capitalized, followed by a period and an em-dash (e.g., *Nesting Success.—###*).

No separate cover page is needed. The title (in bold) is at the top, with each major word capitalized. Please include scientific names of taxa, following the use of a common name in the title, but do not include taxonomic authority. Afterwards, provide the author(s) and their corresponding affiliation. Please format author names in bold and all caps, with the affiliations directly below them, which are italicized. If successive authors share the same affiliation, list the authors back-to-back (one line after another), and provide the affiliation only once. There no should be no superscripts or subscripts used in this section, but an asterisk (*) should follow the author designated as the corresponding author. Below the last author, write the following in italics: **Corresponding author; e-mail: ###*. If multiple authors wish to include their e-mail, then there would be no asterisk and no corresponding author line at the bottom. In this scenario, include the multiple author e-mails at the end of their affiliation. For single author submissions, include the author's e-mail at the end of their affiliation and there should be no asterisk and no corresponding author line at the bottom.

Abstract: *HR* does not publish abstracts, and these should not be included.

Introduction: The introduction provides the scientific background and context necessary to understand the study or narrative presented. It reviews relevant literature and identifies a gap in

knowledge or a specific problem being addressed. This section builds a logical case for why the research is needed and important. It typically ends with a clear statement of the study's objectives, hypotheses, or research questions. There should be no header for Introduction, and this section should begin immediately following the authors and affiliations.

Materials and Methods (or Methods): This section explains exactly how the study was conducted so that it can be replicated. It includes details about study design, sampling, experimental procedures, equipment, and analytical approaches. Clear descriptions of statistical tests and data processing are also essential. Transparency and precision are critical to ensure the validity and reproducibility of the research. Named products should include manufacturer and location of incorporation (city, state, country) immediately following their mention.

Results: The results section presents the findings of the study in an objective manner without interpretation. Restrict any interpretation to the Discussion section. It includes summaries of data, statistical analyses, and references to tables and figures. The text should guide the reader through the key patterns or outcomes shown in the data. Only results relevant to the research questions should be included. Number figures and tables in the order in which they are cited in the text and be sure to cite all figures and tables.

Discussion: The discussion interprets the results and explains their significance in the context of existing research. It addresses whether the findings support the original hypotheses and explores possible mechanisms or explanations. This section often compares results with previous studies and highlights similarities or differences. It also acknowledges limitations and may suggest directions for future research. In short papers, the Results and Discussion sections may be combined.

Acknowledgments: The acknowledgments section recognizes individuals, organizations, or institutions that contributed to the work but are not listed as authors. This may include funding agencies, field assistants, or colleagues who provided feedback. It is also where grant numbers or institutional support are often cited. Funding agencies may have specific wording requirements, and compliance with such requirements is the responsibility of the author. Additionally, please include relevant permit information and permissions that the research was conducted under in this section (federal permits, state permits, site-level permits). IACUC information/approvals must be included in this section as well. Please use initials to acknowledge individuals and do not include titles (e.g., "We thank T. LaDuc" not "We would like to thank Dr. Travis LaDuc, Curator of Herpetology"). This section should be left-justified and formatted as follows: *Acknowledgments.—###*.

Literature Cited: The literature cited section lists all sources cited throughout the manuscript. It provides the necessary information for readers to locate the original works, ensuring transparency and academic integrity. Citations must follow the specific formatting style described further below. Accurate and complete referencing is essential for credibility and proper attribution. If the manuscript was prepared with the use of citation managing software (e.g., EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley), please ensure that the final submission of your accepted manuscript has all embedded codes (e.g., field codes) removed and only plain text remains. Strings of multiple in-text citations are ordered chronologically, then alphabetically. For in-text citations where multiple references from the same author are used, the name does not need to be repeated (e.g., "Davis 2012, 2013"), and if there are multiple references from the same author in the same year, please follow the year with a letter (e.g., "Davis 2012a, 2012b") and ensure these same letters are present in the full references in the

literature cited. References in the literature cited section should be first ordered alphabetically by first author last name. For multiple references with the same first author, place them in the following order: single author reference, two author reference, then three (or more) author reference. If there are multiple references from an author that contain three or more authors, place these in chronological order.

Reference Formatting:

For a peer-reviewed article:

FITCH, H. S. 1978. A field study of the prairie kingsnake (*Lampropeltis calligaster*). *Trans. Kansas Acad. Sci.* 81:354–362.

- In-text citation: (Fitch 1978)
- journal titles are abbreviated and should follow ISO4 abbreviations.
- for references with >20 authors, please cite the first 19 authors, then write an ellipsis and the last author of the paper.

For a book:

SAVAGE, J. M. 2002. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. 934 pp.

- In-text citation: (Savage 2002)

For a book chapter:

SNOW, R. W., K. L. KRYSKO, K. M. ENGE, L. OBERHOFER, A. WARREN-BRADLEY, AND L. WILKINS. 2007. Introduced populations of *Boa constrictor* (Boidae) and *Python molurus bivittatus* (Pythonidae) in southern Florida. *In* R. W. Henderson and R. Powell [eds.], *Biology of the Boas and Pythons*, pp. 416–438. Eagle Mountain Publishing, Eagle Mountain, Utah.

- In-text citation: (Snow et al. 2007)

For a thesis/dissertation:

DOODY, J. S. 2002. A comparative nesting study of two syntopic species of softshell turtles (*Apalone mutica* and *Apalone spinifera*) in southcentral Louisiana. M.S. Thesis, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana. 134 pp.

- In-text citation: (Doody 2002)

For a website:

R CORE TEAM. 2023. R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. Available at <https://www.R-project.org/>. Accessed 1 September 2025.

- In-text citation: (R Core Team 2023)
- use websites sparingly, especially if a peer-reviewed reference is available

Tables and Figures: The use of figures and tables is encouraged to help convey information to the reader. If you include a figure or table, it must be referenced within the text (Fig. 1; Table 1) and a brief caption must be included at the bottom of the note. A video illustrating results or findings critical to the understanding of the manuscript may be archived at the *HR* repository (available at: <https://hdl.handle.net/2152/85085>). Instead of linking to a non-archived URL (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo), please include a note where a DOI could be inserted into the text. Please communicate this with the Associate Editor. Upon final acceptance of the manuscript, please also submit a copy of the video file (.mp4 file). This will be uploaded by *HR* staff during production, and a DOI will be inserted.

Example figure legend:

FIG. 1. Short but descriptive caption that includes the scientific name of the organism (if pictured) and

location of the observation/event. Note that “Fig.” is in small caps. A photo credit can be included (e.g., “PHOTO BY DREW R. DAVIS”) at the end of the legend. Use capital letters (e.g., A, B, C) to label different panels in a figure. Please place these panel labels in the upper left corner of the figure and ensure they are legible (i.e., they do not blend into the background). Panel lettering should be black or white and should be a sans-serif font (e.g., Arial, Helvetica).

Scientific Names and Common Names: For species in North America, north of Mexico, common names should follow: Nicholson (ed.) 2025. *Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding*. Ninth Edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 87 pp.; for species from Mexico, standard names should follow: Liner and Casas-Andreu 2008. *Standard Spanish, English and Scientific Names of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Mexico*. *Herpetol. Circ.* 28:1–162. In attempt to offer clarity and improved communication of information, we request authors follow the standard names in these guides but leave the choice of scientific names to the individual authors.

Voucher Specimens: If voucher specimens were collected, include the full, accepted name of the museum/collection and catalog number. Consult: Sabaj 2025 (available at: <https://www.asih.org/resources/standard-symbolic-codes>) for use of museum/collection names and abbreviations. If the authors collected voucher specimens and are affiliated with an institution that has an IACUC, you must include IACUC approval information in the acknowledgments section.

Additional Formatting Guidelines: All formatting guidelines must be followed if the manuscript is accepted. Authors should ensure that close attention is paid regarding formatting guidelines to ensure smooth processing and advancement of the manuscript through production. Please pay close attention to the following guidelines:

- Please use American English, not British English (e.g., behavior not behaviour)
- Use only one space after periods, never two
- Correct formatting for dates and time is 1 July 2025 and 0235 h; do not use leading zeros when providing dates (e.g., “5 June” not “05 June”)
- GPS coordinates should be in decimal degrees (≤ 5 decimal places) and include the map datum used (e.g., 14.7976°S, 39.2334°W; WGS 84); note the map datum is separated from the GPS by a semicolon and that there is a space in “WGS 84”; use “S”, and “W” in the GPS coordinates and not negative values
- Elevation data should be in m (not ft) and follow the map datum in parenthesis
- For measurement information, please format as “150 mm SVL”, not “SVL = 150 mm”
- Snout–vent length should be abbreviated but not total length or tail length (e.g., 45.0 cm SVL, 13.9 cm tail length, 50 g)
- If a measurement is an approximation, please use “ca.” (e.g., ca. 45.0 cm SVL)
- For temperatures, correct spacing is “24°C”
- Provide measurements in metric units (e.g., grams [g], milliliters [mL])
- Abbreviate time units as follows: second (s), minute (min), hour (h), days (d), week (wk), month (mo), and year (yr)
- Spell out all state names (do not abbreviate them) and ensure country is included at first mention of the state (but not in successive mentions)
- In the text, please use “Fig.” (not Figure) and “Table” when referring to these
- Additional formatting styles include (note the spacing):
 - $N = 12$ eggs
 - 78 ± 2.6
 - $P < 0.001$
 - 1.7 m

- Ensure correct use of hyphens (-), en-dashes (–), and em-dashes (—), as well as surrounding spaces; hyphens connect compound adjectives, en-dashes are used to separate numeric values (e.g., page ranges, date ranges, size ranges), and em-dashes are used in text to create emphasis, interruption, or clarification in a sentence