Ecology Journal Style Guide for Biology Thesis Students

General guidelines (esapubs.org/esapubs/preparation.htm Lit): When in doubt, consult your thesis advisor and look at recently published articles in the journal Ecology at esajournals.org/loi/ecol

Literature cited (bibliography)

- The first author’s last name is followed by the author’s initials; all subsequent authors’ names begin with their initials; put a space between first and middle initials, and put a comma after the last initial’s period; for 10 or more authors, only list the first and follow it with a comma and "et al." without quotes.
- Only the first word of the article title and proper nouns in the article title are capitalized.
- Books: Place of publication includes city, state or province, and country. Only the country is abbreviated. The number of an edition is optional.
- The bibliography is labeled Literature Cited, which is centered.
- References have hanging indents; line spacing is single, no lines between references.

Examples below include (in order listed): Lake Forest College thesis (Boeing), book that is a volume in a series with each volume having its own title (Cramp and Simmons), 2 articles with same date and author (Dangles), chapter in an edited book (Forster), PhD thesis (Ison), book that is an edition other than the first (Mitsch), website (R Core Team), article with more than 10 authors (Tauber), report (Wasserman), news article (Weber).

Literature Cited

Boeing, J. 2015. Ant diversity in the urban mosaic. Senior thesis, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL, USA.


In-text citations

- One author: (Boeing 2015:31). In this example, a direct quote was made from page 31 of the source.
- Two authors: (Cramp and Simmons 1983). In this example, they are editors.
- Three or more authors: (Dangles et al. 2004a). In this example, the lower case, italicized letter a indicates that this is the first of two or more sources published by the same author in the same year that you cited.
Figures

- Specifications: http://esapubs.org/esapubs/preparation.htm#Ill
- Below the figure, begin its legend with the abbreviation Fig., followed by a space, the figure’s number, a period, 5 spaces and a sentence or two describing the figure.
- Refer to the figure in the text of your thesis as Fig. and the number:

![Figure 1. An example of data classified as unimodal by Mittelbach et al. (2001) using general linear models regression and the MOS test. The large gap in the data between 15 and 55 μg/L P invalidates the use of regression, and interpolation of unimodality is based on a single outlier. Data obtained from the data table published in Palomäki and Paasivirta (1993) (n = 11 samples).](image)

See this figure and the text referring to it on page 2245 of this article: Cusens, J., S. D. Wright, P. D. McBride, and L. N. Gillman. 2012. What is the form of the productivity–animal-species-richness relationship? a critical review and meta-analysis. Ecology 93:2241-2252.

Tables

- Tables should be created from data gathered by the thesis author rather than copied from published works.
- See specifications at http://esapubs.org/esapubs/preparation.htm#Tab
- Above the table put the word Table followed by a space, the number of the table, a space, a period, 5 spaces, and then the title of the table. Capitalize only the first word of the table title and any proper nouns. Use a hanging indent if the title is more than one line.
- Put explanatory notes below the table, beginning with the word Notes and a colon in italics, followed by any necessary explanations of symbols, terms, values, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3. Results of the community similarity analysis (Horn-Morisita index) between the different plot treatments.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR</td>
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<tr>
<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>SD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Numbers close to 1 indicate high similarity in terms of species composition and species equitability. Treatments: AR: artificial bat roost plots (n = 8); NR: natural bat roost plots (n = 14); SD: same-diameter tree plots (n = 14); SP: same-species tree plots (n = 14).

See this table at the bottom of page 2449 and the text referring to it on page 2447, second column, under Results, bottom of the first paragraph of this article:


Plates (photographs)

- Below the photograph, type the word Plate followed by a space, the number of the plate, a space, a period, 5 spaces, and a sentence or two about the photograph. Then type the words Photo credit, followed by a colon, a space, the first and middle initials of the photographer, the photographer’s last name, and a period.

![Plate 1. Female *Buccinum undatum* group laying an egg mass composed of multiple egg capsules (c) in December 2009. Each egg capsule contains between 500 and 2600 eggs. The scale bar represents 5 mm. Photo credit: K. E. Smith.](image)

See this plate and the text referring to it on page 2265 of this article: