Information for Contributors, 1988

Editorial Policy

MOLECULAR PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS (MPMI) will publish significant research on the molecular genetics and molecular biology of pathological, symbiotic, and associative interactions of microbes and plants and on the characteristics of a plant or microbe that have been demonstrated to effect such interactions. For the purposes of this journal, the term "microbe" encompasses viruses, procaryotes, fungi, and also nematodes and viroids. The term "molecular biology" includes studies on biochemical or biophysical mechanisms. MPMI will consider methodological research papers if they report important new advances in technology for studying the molecular aspects of plant-microbe interactions. Although most papers will report original research, a "Current Reviews" section will publish short reviews that focus on some rapidly developing area of the molecular aspects of plant-microbe interactions.

Submitted manuscripts should report fundamental rather than applied research and should be directed at understanding the molecular mechanisms of plant-microbe interactions rather than merely describing such interactions. Research to be published in MPMI must be pioneering and should not report results that already have been obtained in related systems.

A manuscript submitted to MPMI must not be under review and may not be submitted for review by another publication, even in part, while under consideration for publication in MPMI. MPMI will not publish a paper that contains data that have been or will be published elsewhere. If a paper submitted to MPMI is closely related to papers under consideration or accepted elsewhere, a copy of each related paper must accompany each copy of the manuscript submitted to MPMI. A paper will not be published in MPMI if the authors communicate the results or conclusions to the national press or electronic media before the MPMI paper is in press in MPMI.

Papers are accepted on the condition that recombinant plasmids and bacteriophages, microbe strains, and plant variants developed in the course of the research will be available for distribution to all qualified members of the scientific community, either directly from the investigator(s) or by deposit in national or international collections.

The management of the review of each manuscript and the final decision with regard to acceptance reside with the Senior Editors, who are identified by area of review on the Editorial Board page. The areas of review are procaryote pathogenesis of plants, procaryote symbiosis and associative interactions with plants, fungus-plant interactions, and virus- and viroid-plant interactions. Most manuscripts will be reviewed by two Associate Editors and/or ad hoc referees. However, a Senior Editor may return, without further review, any manuscript that does not conform to the criteria for publication in MPMI.

Text of the Submitted Manuscript

The language of MPMI is English. Manuscripts should be written concisely and submitted in typed form, double-spaced throughout, on white paper about 220 × 280 mm (8.5 × 11 in.). The first author's surname, page number, and the abbreviation "MPMI" should appear on the upper right corner of each page. Use of a letter-quality printer is preferred. High-quality dot matrix printing may be acceptable for the manuscript as first submitted and in final form if it also is submitted on a magnetic disk.

The sections of a research manuscript are, in order: title of article, authors' names, organization where the research was done (department, institution, city, postal code, country), abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion (or combined results and discussion), acknowledgments, literature cited, tables, figure legends, figures. A Current Review will have a few sections, each with a heading that describes the subject matter; headings for materials and methods, results, and discussion will be omitted. An introduction is optional in a Current Review. Footnotes are to be avoided except to report information about the authors (e.g., new address) or institution. Papers will not have a running head.

The title should concisely indicate the important aspects of the article but should not include abbreviations. Do not use both common and scientific names for organisms in the title. The title is limited to 180 characters, including spaces.

Authors' names and institution should immediately follow the title on the first page. Academic and professional degrees and titles should not be included.

Begin the required, one-paragraph Abstract on the second page. The Abstract, in English, must not exceed 200 words. Authors may also provide one translation of the Abstract, in French, German, or Spanish. Do not include authorities for scientific names of organisms cited in the Abstract. Any reference cited in the Abstract should be completely defined (authors, journal, volume, pages, year). Below the Abstract, after typing the phrase "Additional key words," list in alphabetic order up to six key words or key word phrases that characterize the scope of the paper, the principal organisms studied (scientific and generic names only), and the main subjects of the work. These words and phrases should not be derived from the title. Indexes will be prepared from the title and from the key words and key word phrases.

Begin the Introduction at the top of the third page. The Introduction to a research paper should be concise, should define the scope of the work in relation to other recent work, and should not exhaustively review the literature.

The Materials and Methods section should describe the materials, techniques, and methods concisely but in sufficient detail to permit, in conjunction with cited published procedures, replication of the experiments. Subheadings may be used but should not excessively fragment the text.

The Results section should guide the reader logically through the experiments and results derived from them. The text is to refer to, but not be redundant with, tables and figures. All but the most minor interpretations and connections to other work should be confined to the Discussion. The Results and Discussion sections may, however, be combined.

The Acknowledgments section should cite assistance from individuals and then assistance from institutions.

Cite references in the text by name and year, enclosing both or only the year in parentheses according to the context. If the cited paper has three or more authors, citation is by the first author and "*et al.*" Only references generally available through libraries should be listed in the Literature Cited section. If work cited is in preparation, submitted but not accepted for publication, or not readily available in libraries, cite the work parenthetically only in the text, possibly giving some indication of institutional affiliation, e.g., (J. Jones, unpublished) or (J. Jones, XYZ University, personal communication). Obtain written permission from the person(s) cited as the source of the unpublished information; this written approval must be provided when the manuscript is submitted. Avoid excessive reference to unpublished information as such data cannot be evaluated by reviewers or readers.

In the Literature Cited section, list references in alphabetic order by authors' surnames. In citing several works by the same first author, arrange the references in three groups, articles by that author alone first, those by two authors next, and finally those by three or more authors. Determine the sequence of works by two authors by alphabetizing by the second author's surname. For works by the same two authors and for works by the same first author and two or more coauthors, arrange the references by year, the most recent last. Works that otherwise would be identically cited in the text are assigned letters according to their order in the references, 1988a, 1988b, etc.

Give complete titles of cited works in the Literature Cited section. List total pages of bulletins. Refer to the BIOSIS List of Serials with Title Abbreviations or the Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index for accepted abbreviations of journal names. Do not abbreviate one-word titles of journals. References to articles in books should include the authors' names, year of publication, title of chapter or article, title of book, editors, if any, edition if other than the first, publisher, city of publication, and inclusive

pagination of the cited chapter or article. Authors are urged to double-check the accuracy of references and reference citations as such checking is not requested of reviewers, editors, or the editorial staff of MPMI.

Editorial Style

The editors reserve the right to make minor modifications to manuscripts that do not conform to accepted standards; such modifications will always be included in the proof that is sent to the corresponding author. To facilitate rapid publication, in most instances manuscripts will be only lightly copyedited before being set in type. Authors are responsible for the final proofreading of galley or page proofs and should make only corrections and essential changes; authors will be charged for the cost of extensive changes. It is therefore important for uniformity of presentation that authors follow the editorial style of MPMI.

Preferred spellings are those of "Webster's Dictionary." A guide to conventions and styles is the "CBE Style Manual" (Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 10814).

Units of measurement are as defined by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*. Use numerals before standard units of measurement; e.g., 1 g, 2 ml. Otherwise use words for numbers one through nine and numerals for larger numbers. Nonstandard abbreviations should be used sparingly. Use nonstandard abbreviations in the Abstract only if it is necessary to refer to the abbreviated term several times. At first use in the Abstract and at first use in the text, spell out the term and place its nonstandard abbreviation in parentheses immediately thereafter.

Use the enzyme names recommended in the latest issue of "Enzyme Nomenclature: Recommendations of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry on the Nomenclature and Classification of Enzymes" (Academic Press, New York). Give the number (classification) of the enzyme at its first use. (See also the latest edition of "Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology," The Chemical Rubber Co., Cleveland, OH.)

Underline Latin binomials of organisms to indicate italic type, and at the first mention of the Latin binomial only, include citation of authorities. Do not use Latin binomials as adjectives. Bacterial nomenclature should follow the Approved Lists of Bacterial Names (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 30:225-420, 1980, and later issues). Pathovar names should be presented as outlined by Dye *et al.* in "International standards for naming pathovars of phytopathogenic bacteria and a list of pathovar names and pathotype strains" (Rev. Plant Pathol. 59:153-168, 1980), except when superceded by the *International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology*. Designate strains, where applicable. For fungal nomenclature, follow Yoder *et al.* (Phytopathology 76:383-385, 1986). Also see "Index of Plant Diseases," USDA Handbook 165 and "A Guide to the Use of Terms in Plant Pathology," Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England. (Phytopathological Papers, No. 17, 1973). Do not Latinize virus names.

Indicate the source of cultures. Include designation of cultures obtained from or deposited in recognized collections. Authors are encouraged to deposit voucher cultures and specimens documenting their research at recognized institutions and to cite the place of deposit in the text.

Standard genetic nomenclature should be used (Demerec *et al.* Genetics 54:61-76, 1966). Follow genetic terminology recommended by Rieger *et al.* in the most recent edition of the "Glossary of Genetics and Cytogenetics: Classical and Molecular" (Springer-Verlag, New York). Follow usage of plasmid symbols proposed by Novick *et al.* (Bacteriol. Rev. 40:168-169, 1976).

Use the term "cultivar" for recognized agronomic and horticultural plant varieties and "lines" for other variants of a species. Identify the source of cultivars and include CI and PI numbers when appropriate. Enclose the name of a cultivar in single quotation marks only when it immediately follows the botanical name.

Names of unusual proprietary materials and special apparatus should be followed by the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses. List bacteriocides and fungicides by their approved common or generic names. See the current issue of "Farm Chemicals Handbook" (Meister Publishing Co., 37841 Euclid Ave., Willoughby, OH 44094) or the most recent edition of "Acceptable Common Names and Chemical Names for the Ingredient Statement on Pesticide Labels" (Pesticide Regulation Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC). Use the chemical name if a common name is not available.

Tables and Figures

Each table and figure, with its footnotes and legend, respectively, should be self-explanatory to a well-informed reader, without reference to the text but possibly with reference to other tables or figures. Tables and figures should be separately serially numbered with Arabic numbers, according to their order of citation in the text. If only a few values are to be presented, they should be in the text, rather than in a table or figure. Data in tables or figures should not be repeated in the text.

The title of a table should summarize the information in the table without repeating any subheading from the table. Subheadings should be brief. Abbreviations are accepted, but each nonstandard abbreviation should be explained in a footnote of the first table (or caption of the first figure) in which it is used, even if previously defined in the text.

Each table should be typed with three lines extending the full width of the table, one just under the title and one each immediately above and immediately below the data entries. Footnotes are designated with superscript lowercase letters. Do not use ditto marks.

Figure captions should describe the contents of the figure so well that it is understandable when considered apart from the text. Figures are to be camera-ready and preferably the size they will be in the final publication. Figures submitted in their final size will be reproduced with greatest fidelity and will allow authors more easily to calculate the size of the printed manuscript. The CBE Style Manual provides helpful instruction for determining sizes of reproduced illustrations. The final sizes of figures in MPMI are 88 mm wide for one column and 183 mm wide for two column figures. The maximum height of a figure is 250 mm. These dimensions include all captions and headings.

For line drawings, affix index marks to ordinates and abscissae. Avoid too bold lettering, numbers, and lines for coordinate axes and curves. If line drawings or graphs are to be published as a composite figure, the parts of the composite should be mounted on cardboard in appropriate positions when the manuscript is submitted. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences are to be submitted as figures. The lettering for sequences should be not less than 3 mm high, with no more than 100 characters per line. Sequences should also be submitted to GenBank; guidelines will be supplied.

Complicated formulas, metabolic and genetic schemes, and similar illustrative material should in almost all cases be presented as figures and should be submitted as glossy prints or clean line drawings for direct photographic reproduction.

On photographs, graphs, and line drawings for same-size reproduction, numbers and lettering (upper and lowercase) should be about 3.5 mm high (e.g., 10 point Universe 55 or other sans serif type). Panels in figures should be labeled A, B, C, etc., and should be 6 mm high (e.g., 18 point). Computer-generated graphs and figures will be accepted if they have smooth, easily photographically reproduced lines and lettering of sizes indicated.

Half-tone figures should be submitted as clear, high quality glossy prints. Prints with poor alignments, blurred lines, or out-of-focus letters and symbols will not be accepted. Prints, except composites, need not be mounted on cardboard. Prints should be cropped at right angles to show only essential details. Insert a scale bar where necessary to indicate magnification.

For composite figures, match photographs for similarity of contrast, background density, and subject content. For best reproduction, avoid combining photographs showing microscopic details with those showing whole plants or plant organs. Figures that combine line drawings and photographs also may fail to reproduce well. Photographs in a composite should be mounted on

hard cardboard, with the edges in contact; space between photographs will be inserted at printing.

Color illustrations may be used if approved by the Senior Editor. These will be at the expense of the author. A cost quotation will be provided, and the author or an institutional officer must provide written acceptance of the quoted cost before the illustration will be processed.

MPMI will occasionally print on the issue's cover an illustration, diagram, etc., from a paper. Authors may suggest an appropriate illustration or diagram to the Senior Editor. The source and a brief explanation of the cover picture will be printed on the contents page.

Authors must obtain permission as required for reproduction of material from a copyrighted publication from the author(s) and publisher concerned. List in the Literature Cited section the publication from which material was reproduced. "Reprinted by permission from Jones (1981)" is an example of a footnote for a reprinted table or a notation in a caption in a reprinted figure.

What to Submit

Authors must submit a complete set of the figures suitable for the printer and three copies of the manuscript, each with all figures in a form suitable for review (e.g., prints rather than photocopies of half-tone figures; photocopies of line-contrast figures are acceptable). Each figure should be labeled on its reverse with the figure number, author's name, and the abbreviation MPMI. Send two copies of the manuscript and the separate set of "original" figures to the MPMI Editorial Office, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55121, USA. Send the third complete copy of the manuscript to the appropriate Senior Editor, whose name and address appears on the Editorial Board page of MPMI. Submit the third copy of a manuscript that reports research on molecular aspects of nematode-plant interactions to the Editor-in-Chief.

Authors are to identify the corresponding author in a cover letter to the Senior Editor, with a copy to the MPMI Editorial Office. The cover letter must state that the manuscript has been approved by all authors. Authors also must supply a telephone and/or telex and/or facsimile number at which they can be contacted during the review process.

Research papers normally will be limited to six printed pages, Current Reviews usually to four. No page charges are assessed for Current Reviews or for research papers of six or fewer pages. Charges for each two pages or fraction thereof over six pages currently are $200. A paper of 6 pages has about 270 column centimeters beyond the requirements for headings, title, and 200-word abstract. Each additional two pages has 100 column centimeters. Two column centimeters print an average of 255 characters, including spaces. In calculating the size of a paper, allow 5 mm at the top and bottom of each table and figure and take any footnote(s) and caption(s) into consideration.

The expectation is that manuscripts submitted from the U.S.A. or Canada will be reviewed for a decision on acceptance, revision, or rejection within one month, overseas manuscripts in six to seven weeks. A paper will be published two to three months after acceptance.

Manuscripts that have received their initial review and have been revised are to be submitted as ribbon copy on white paper and if possible also as indicated below. When the authors have revised the manuscript in accordance with the requests of the Senior Editor, they are to send the ribbon copy to the MPMI Editorial Office and a photocopy to the Senior Editor. They should also send the Senior Editor an explanation of the changes made and should return any annotated version of the originally submitted manuscript.

The dates of receipt and acceptance of the manuscript will appear under the authors' names on the first page of the printed paper. If the manuscript is returned to the authors for revision and the authors fail to return the revised manuscript to the Senior Editor within three weeks of the time that the manuscript was mailed by the Senior Editor, the printed paper will bear between the dates of receipt and acceptance, a date of revision, which will be the date that the Senior Editor received the revised manuscript.

To speed production, authors are encouraged to submit their final manuscripts both as ribbon copy and in a form suitable for electronic processing. Currently, computer disks that can be processed in the editorial office include 5.25-inch "floppy" disks (IBM-PC-DOS formatted) with ASCII characters only and 8-inch floppy disks (Wang, OIS format not using WP+). ASCII characters are uppercase and lowercase letters A through Z, numerals 0 through 9, and punctuation, including single and double quotation marks and . , ; : - ! ? % @ & * (/). Manuscripts not submitted on computer disks should be prepared for reading by optical character scanning (OCR), typed with Courier 10, Prestige Elite, or OCR-B fonts on paper without watermarks. Whether submitted on computer disk or in OCR format, all characters that are not standard ASCII characters must be marked on a typescript. Superscripts, subscripts, underlining, and other non-ASCII characters need to be handwritten with red pencil or with a pen with Pantone colors 137, 150, 151, 164, 165, 170, 171, or 172. Computer printouts should not include bold type, underlining, or justification. A copy segment-ending code (#) should be typed at the end of each paragraph or place that a carriage return would be used. Additional instructions for typing manuscripts in the appropriate form are available from the MPMI Editorial Office.

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