MPMI Information for Contributors, 1990

Editorial Policy

MOLECULAR PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS (MPMI) will publish leading research on the molecular genetics and molecular biology of pathological, symbiotic, and associative interactions of microbes and plants. For purposes of this journal, the term "microbe" encompasses viruses, procaryotes, fungi and also nematodes and viroids; "molecular biology" includes studies on biochemical or biophysical mechanisms. Molecular analysis of the microbe alone or the plant alone may be the subject of an MPMI paper, providing sufficient evidence is available identifying the characteristics under study as being among those that effect or modulate plant-microbe interactions. The main thrust of an MPMI paper also may be traditional genetics or other nonmolecular research if such research identifies a molecule as an essential factor in a microbe-plant interaction. MPMI will consider methodological research papers if they report important advances in technology for studying plant-microbe interactions. A "Current Reviews" section will publish short reviews focusing on a rapidly developing area of the molecular aspects of plant-microbe interactions.

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

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 A paper will not be published in MPMI if the authors communicate the results or conclusions to the national press or electronic media before the paper is in press in MPMI.

Papers are accepted on the condition that authentic samples of 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 in regard to acceptance reside with the Senior Editors. Editors may return, without further review, any manuscript that does not conform to the criteria for publication in MPMI.

Text of the Manuscript

Manuscripts must be typed double-spaced throughout, in English, on white paper 220 × 280 mm, with the first author's family name, page number, and MPMI in the right upper corner of each page.

The sections of a research manuscript are: on page 1, the title (in 180 letters or spaces), authors' names (without academic degrees or titles), and organization where the research was done (department, institution, city, postal code, country); on page 2, a one-paragraph abstract of 200 words or less and, after "Additional keywords:," up to six keywords or phrases indicating the scope and main subjects of the paper and principal organisms studied (scientific and generic names only); beginning on page 3, the introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion (or combined results and discussion), acknowledgments of assistance from individuals and institutions, literature cited, tables, figure captions, and figures. A Current Review may have an introduction and a few sections, each with a heading describing the topic. Avoid footnotes except to report information about the authors (e.g., new address) or institution.

Dates of receipt and acceptance of a manuscript will be printed under the authors' names. If a manuscript is returned to the authors for revision *and* the authors do not return the revised manuscript to the Senior Editor within 3 weeks, the printed paper will also show a date of revision.

Research papers normally will be limited to 6 printed pages and Current Reviews to 4. No page charges are assessed for Current Reviews or for research papers of 6 or fewer pages. Charges for each two pages or fraction thereof over 6 pages are $200.

Cite references in the text by name and year, enclosing both or only the year in parentheses according to the context. Only references generally available through libraries should be listed in the Literature Cited section; cite other work parenthetically in the text, indicating the affiliation of the person cited. Obtain written permission from the person(s) cited as the source of unpublished data; this written approval must be provided with a submitted manuscript. In the Literature Cited section, list references alphabetically by authors' surnames. References to journals should include each author's name and initials, year of publication, title of article, name of journal, volume, and inclusive pagination. 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 cited material.

Editorial Style

In most instances, manuscripts will be only lightly copyedited before being set in type. Use the term "cultivar" for agronomic and horticultural plant varieties and "lines" for other variants of a species. Include CI and PI numbers when appropriate. Names of unusual proprietary materials and special apparatus should be followed by the manufacturer's name and city in parentheses. Further guidelines are:

BIOSIS List of Serials with Title Abbreviations

CBE Style Manual Committee. 1983. CBE Style Manual: A Guide for Authors, Editors, and Publishers in the Biological Sciences, 5th ed. Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Bethesda, MD.

Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index. 1985. Chemical Abstracts Service, Columbus, OH.

Dye, D. W., Bradbury, J. F., Goto, M., Hayward, A. C., Lelliott, R. A., and Schroth, M. N. 1980. International standards for naming pathovars of phytopathogenic bacteria and a list of pathovar names and pathotype strains. Rev. Plant Pathol. 59:153-168. (except as superceded by the International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology)

Enzyme Nomenclature: Recommendations of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry on the Nomenclature and Classification of Enzymes. Academic Press, New York.

A Guide to the Use of Terms in Plant Pathology. 1973. Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey, England. Phytopathological Papers, No. 17.

Handbook of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. 1976. CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, FL.

Information for contributors. Table 1. Some standard abbreviations and symbols. 1987. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA. 84:vi-vii.

Index of Plant Diseases in the United States. 1960. Handbook 165. ARS, USDA.

Novick, et al. 1976. Bacteriol. Rev. 40:168-169.

Rieger, R., et al. 1976. Glossary & Genetics & Cytogenetics, 4th rev. ed. Springer-Verlag, New York.

Skerman, et al. Approved Lists of Bacterial Names. 1980, and later issues. Intl. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 30:225-420.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary. 1981. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

Yoder, O. C., Valent, B., and Chumley, F. 1986. Genetic nomenclature and practice for plant pathogenic fungi. Phytopathology 76:383-385.

Tables and Figures

Each table and figure should be self-explanatory 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, in their order of citation in the

text. Each nonstandard abbreviation should be explained in footnotes to tables or captions of figures, even if previously defined in text. If only a few values are presented, they should be in the text. Data in tables or figures should not be repeated in the text.

The title of a table should summarize the information in it without repeating any subheading from it. 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 below the data. Footnotes are designated by superscript lowercase letters.

Figures must be camera-ready, preferably the size they will be when printed. Maximum widths are 88 mm for one column and 183 mm for two column figures; maximum height is 250 mm, including all captions and headings.

Nucleotide and amino acid sequences are to submitted as figures. The lettering for sequences should be not less than 3 mm high, with no more than 100 characters per line. Complicated formulas, metabolic and genetic schemes, and similar illustrative material should almost always be presented as figures and submitted as glossy prints or line drawings.

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

Half-tone figures should be clear, high-quality glossy prints cropped at right angles to show only essential details, with scale bars where necessary to indicate magnification.

For composite figures, match photographs for similarity of contrast, background density, and subject. Figures that combine line drawings and photographs may fail to print clearly. The parts of a composite should be mounted in appropriate positions on cardboard, with the edges in contact; space between photographs will be inserted at printing. Color illustrations can be printed, but the cost must be paid by the authors.

What to Submit

Submit a set of the figures for the printer *and* three copies of the manuscript including all figures for review (prints rather than photocopies of photographs). Label the reverse of each figure with its number, author's name, and MPMI. Send two copies of the manuscript *and* the 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 or, if the manuscript reports molecular aspects of nematode-plant interactions, to the Editor-in-Chief.

Authors are to identify the corresponding author and supply a telephone, telex, Bitnet, and/or facsimile number 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.

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 on 5.25-inch "floppy" disks (IBM-PC-DOS format) in standard ASCII characters or 8-inch floppy disks (Wang, OIS format not using WP+). Alternatively, the manuscript may be processed by an optical character reader (OCR) if it is on paper without watermarks and typed with a "#" sign at the end of each paragraph and other carriage return. For processing by OCR or from a disk, the manuscript should consist of standard ASCII characters only; superscripts, subscripts, underlining, bold type, and other non-ASCII characters are to be handwritten with blue pencil. Additional instructions for preparing manuscripts are available from the MPMI Editorial Office.

Send the ribbon copy (and diskette) of the revised manuscript to the MPMI Editorial Office and a photocopy to the Senior Editor. Send the Senior Editor an explanation of changes, and return any annotated version of the originally submitted manuscript.

Authors are responsible for final proofreading and should make only corrections and essential changes to proofs.

Authors will receive 50 free reprints and may order additional reprints when they review proofs.

[NOTE: Please also refer to the January issue of MPMI for the Information for Contributors from which the foregoing was excerpted.]

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