

## The Ideal Article for BioScience

Author: Beardsley, Timothy M.

Source: BioScience, 61(5) : 343

Published By: American Institute of Biological Sciences

URL: <https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2011.61.5.1>

---

BioOne Complete ([complete.BioOne.org](http://complete.BioOne.org)) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at [www.bioone.org/terms-of-use](http://www.bioone.org/terms-of-use).

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

---

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

## PUBLISHER

Richard T. O'Grady

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

Timothy M. Beardsley

## MANAGING EDITOR

James M. Verdier

## BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

## PEER REVIEW / PRODUCTION COORDINATION

Jennifer A. Williams

## MANUSCRIPT EDITOR

Nathan N. True

**Editors:** Eye on Education: Cathy Lundmark (educationoffice@aibs.org); Feature articles: Cathy Lundmark (features@aibs.org); Washington Watch: Robert E. Gropp (publicpolicy@aibs.org).

**Editorial Board:** Agriculture: Sonny Ramaswamy; Animal Behavior: Janice Moore; Animal Development: Paula Mabee; Botany: Kathleen Donohue; Cell Biology: Randy Wayne; Ecology: Scott Collins, Daniel Simberloff; Ecotoxicology: Judith S. Weis; Education: Charlene D'Avanzo; Environmental Microbiology: Rita R. Colwell; Environmental Policy: Gordon Brown, J. Michael Scott; Evolutionary Biology: James Mallet; Genetics and Evolution: Martin Tracey; History and Philosophy: Richard M. Burian; Human Biology: David L. Evans; Invertebrate Biology: Kirk Fitzhugh; Landscape Ecology: Monica Turner; Mammalogy: David M. Leslie Jr.; Microbiology: Edna S. Kaneshiro; Molecular Biology: David Hillis; Molecular Evolution and Genomics: David Rand; Neurobiology: Cole Gilbert; Plant Development: Cynthia S. Jones; Policy Forum: Eric A. Fischer; Population Biology: Ben Pierce; Professional Biologist: Jean Wyld; Remote Sensing and Computation: Geoffrey M. Henebery; Statistics: Kent E. Holsinger; Vertebrate Biology: Harvey B. Lillywhite.

**BioScience** (ISSN 0006-3568; e-ISSN 1525-3244) is published 12 times a year by the American Institute of Biological Sciences, 1900 Campus Commons Dr., Suite 200, Reston, VA 20191, in collaboration with the University of California Press. Periodicals postage paid at Berkeley, CA, and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *BioScience*, University of California Press, Journals and Digital Publishing, 2000 Center Street, Suite 303, Berkeley, CA 94704-1223, or e-mail customerservice@ucpressjournals.com.

**Membership and subscription:** Individual members, go to [www.aibs.org/aibs-membership/index.html](http://www.aibs.org/aibs-membership/index.html) for benefits and services, membership rates, and back issue claims. Subscription renewal month is shown in the four-digit year-month code in the upper right corner of the mailing label. Institutional subscribers, go to [www.ucpressjournals.com](http://www.ucpressjournals.com) or e-mail customerservice@ucpressjournals.com. Out-of-print issues and volumes are available from Periodicals Service Company, 11 Main Street, Germantown, NY 12526-5635; telephone: 518-537-4700; fax: 518-537-5899; Web site: [www.periodicals.com](http://www.periodicals.com).

**Advertising:** For information about display and online advertisements and deadlines, e-mail [adsales@ucpressjournals.com](mailto:adsales@ucpressjournals.com). For information about classified placements and deadlines, contact Jennifer A. Williams, AIBS ([jwilliams@aibs.org](mailto:jwilliams@aibs.org)).

**Copying and permissions notice:** Authorization to copy article content beyond fair use (as specified in sections 107 and 108 of the US Copyright Law) for internal or personal use, or the internal or personal use of specific clients, is granted by the Regents of the University of California on behalf of AIBS for libraries and other users, provided that they are registered with and pay the specified fee through the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC), [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com). To reach the CCC's Customer Service Department, call 978-750-8400 or e-mail [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com). For permission to distribute electronically, republish, resell, or repurpose material, and to purchase article offprints, use the CCC's Rightslink service on JSTOR at <http://www.jstor.org/r/ucal/bio>. Submit all other permissions and licensing inquiries through the University of California Press's Rights and Permissions Web site, [www.ucpressjournals.com/reprintInfo.asp](http://www.ucpressjournals.com/reprintInfo.asp), or e-mail [journalspermissions@ucpress.edu](mailto:journalspermissions@ucpress.edu).

**Abstracting and indexing:** For complete abstracting and indexing information, please visit [www.ucpressjournals.com](http://www.ucpressjournals.com).

© 2011 American Institute of Biological Sciences. All rights reserved. Printed at Allen Press, Inc.

# BioScience®

Organisms from Molecules to the Environment  
American Institute of Biological Sciences

## The Ideal Article for *BioScience*

It seems worthwhile occasionally to redescribe for the benefit of readers and potential authors the sort of articles that we hope to publish in *BioScience*, and how this aspiration relates to AIBS's broader mission to advance biological research and education for the welfare of society.

Certainly, as *BioScience's* tag line, "Organisms from Molecules to the Environment," indicates, the subfield of biology that is relevant to a *BioScience* article can vary over a very broad range. So an Overview that has something to say about molecular evolution might be as welcome as one that treats river evolution. Moreover, we see a particular role for *BioScience* in publishing articles that span disciplinary boundaries, since AIBS has long supported efforts to bring biologists together. Yet this catholic attitude, which reflects the diverse interests of AIBS members, member societies, and organizations, does not mean that *BioScience* can or should publish any specialized article that might alternatively have appeared in a journal of one of the AIBS member organizations. We take seriously—and ask our reviewers and authors to take seriously—our objective of communicating with a broad readership. That means, in part, paying attention to clarity (dare we say elegance?) of expression, with an active consideration for the nonspecialist reader. We therefore strive to eliminate jargon and insist on defining terms that people reading outside their own fields might not know. We are not sticklers for formality for its own sake, but effective explanation of sometimes-difficult ideas usually demands a levelheadedness and consistent attention to detail that come only from careful revision.

Clarity is not enough, however. Authors of *BioScience* articles ought to want to say something to biologists that they believe will help the whole discipline, not just their part of it. As we say in our *Information for Contributors*, we "give priority to articles that explain connections between disciplines or synthesize conclusions of general interest to biologists." Some of these connections and conclusions might be about biology per se; others, however, might be about approaches to the teaching of biology, good professional practices, the effective use of new tools, or explorations of little-known history. Any of these may be ideal for *BioScience*.

Often, our articles represent attempts to ensure that insights from biology inform decisionmaking in government and other institutions. Since all biologists would presumably like to see their subject be influential, good models of such attempts to extend biology's influence should be of general interest. *BioScience* has often published special sections that address specific biological topics in depth, many of them topics with significant practical implications. We intend to continue doing so. AIBS hopes thereby to benefit its member societies who want to publish up-to-date treatments of progress in their areas, even documents such as white papers, that are expressly designed for a broad readership and to help in outreach efforts. Doing excellent biology is only half the battle: Its effective communication to the world at large is just as much a challenge. *BioScience* will continue to support this ideal for the benefit of individual AIBS members, member societies, and the discipline.

TIMOTHY M. BEARDSLEY

Editor in Chief

doi:10.1525/bio.2011.61.5.1