

Author Guidelines for Method articles (updated: April 2021)

Method articles are to report novel methods/techniques, or critically improved methods with new findings as articles (article style format), while [Protocols](#) are to provide precise instructions of methods that have already been used in published papers elsewhere but not described in detail yet (step-by-step style format).

The following criteria should be met for **Method articles**.

- Unpublished novel method (New method), or improved method with new findings (New findings by improved method).
- Advantage over other similar methods with comparable data.

Manuscripts must be written in the article style, basically as same as original articles in DGD. However, to assist the readers for clear understanding, addition of the following is recommended for each section.

1. Introduction

This section should include sufficient background information to set the work in context. The aims of the method should be clearly stated. The Introduction should not contain either findings or conclusions.

• **Scientific Background:**

If the article includes new findings, describe the biological background with references related to the research field.

• **Method Background:**

Describe the rationale for developing the method, background of the technology, and obstacles that existed. Include references related to your method or for the primary report of your improved method.

2. Materials and methods

This section must include sufficient details of materials and methods for readers to reproduce the experiments. Note that critical procedures and important points should be emphasized.

3. Results

This section should describe the principle experimental result that validates the novel method. When reporting critically improved methods, new findings should be presented. The authors are welcome to present comparative results by other or previous methods to show advantage of the new method over existing ones.

4. Discussion

This section should describe the technical advantage of the new or improved method over existing ones and the discussion about new findings, if any. Use of the following division subtitles may assist the readers' clear understanding.

- **Advantage of the method:**

Discuss the advantage of the method for the field compared with other methods.

- **Expertise required to implement the method:**

Describe the expertise to implement the method. Helpful information such as papers, books, and web sites should be listed.

- **Limitations of the method:**

Describe the possible limitations of the method clearly. If specific machineries or facilities may be required, specify them.

- **Applications of the method:**

Discuss about applications of the method to other fields or other organisms.

- **Importance of new findings:**

In reporting new findings by the critically improved method, discuss its novelty and biological importance.