

## Format for contributions to *Malagasy Nature*

*Malagasy Nature* is a natural history journal that publishes original articles concerning animals, plants, ecology, conservation, biogeography, systematics and paleontology of Madagascar and surrounding islands (Comoros, Mascarenes, and Seychelles). Papers should be submitted in either English (USA or UK) or French. The journal is published biannually, with numbers expected in June and December of each year. When submitting an article, the corresponding author should explicitly state in the cover letter that the principal contents and conclusions of the article have not been published elsewhere nor are being considered by another scientific journal. Further, it should be clearly mentioned that all of the co-authors have read the penultimate version of the paper and agree to its publication.

When possible, articles should be submitted in electronic form to the editor at [edition@vahatra.mg](mailto:edition@vahatra.mg). Attached files greater than 2 MB do not pass through our server system. Hence, in such cases, the various files making up the paper should be sent in different messages. In cases when the submitting author does not have access to email, two copies of the printed ms., as well as all files associated with the ms. on a CD or diskette, should be sent by post to Association Vahatra, BP 3972, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar. For authors in Madagascar a packet can be hand-delivered to the Vahatra office, across from the Observatoire d'Ankatso, Villa Ny Akaniko III, Lot VA 38 LB Ter A, Ambohidempona, Tsiadana, Antananarivo.

Once the article is in the hands of the editor, a message or letter will be sent to the corresponding author acknowledging its safe receipt. Thereafter, the article will be sent to a member of the editorial board or a specialized reviewer for its evaluation. The journal strives to return the reviewers' comments to the authors within two months of the original receipt of the ms., at which point they will be informed of the editorial decision (accepted, accepted based on revisions, or refused).

### I. Presentation of the article

**General:** Articles not following the required format of the journal, detailed below, will be returned to the submitting author for the necessary corrections before being sent out for review. Manuscripts in French should have a "résumé" not surpassing 250 words and an extended English abstract up to 750 words, while those in English should have an abstract up to 250 words and a detailed "résumé" in French with a maximum of 750 words. A series of keywords (up to five) should follow the abstract/résumé. Subsequent sections of the ms. should include: Introduction, Materials and

Methods, Results, Discussion, Summary conclusion, Acknowledgements, Literature Cited, figure titles, figures, and tables. Short communications can deviate from this format.

**Format:** Manuscripts should be written and submitted in WORD format (version 1998 and more recent).

**Length:** In general, full papers should not exceed 50 pages manuscript (double-spaced lines), including the text, figures, tables, and references. Short communications should not exceed 10 manuscript pages. Each page of the manuscript should be numbered in sequential order.

**Font and margins:** Manuscripts should use Arial script with a font size of 12 pt. The upper and lower margins should not be less than 2 cm, left margin 2.5 cm, and right margin 2 cm.

**Article title:** This should be figured on the first page on the ms., center alignment, in bold Arial, font 14, and only the first letters of appropriate words in capitals.

**Author address(es): Full given names and family name of each author in** Arial 12 pt in bold followed by their professional mailing address and email address in Arial 12 pt regular. For example:

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**Primary titles:** Arial, font 12, and in bold.

**Secondary titles:** Arial, font 12, and in bold.

**Tertiary titles:** Arial, font 12, in italics and in bold.

**Quaternary titles:** Arial, font 12, and in italics

**Abbreviation:** If the author(s) decide to employ abbreviations for certain terms used frequently in the text, these should be defined at first usage, with the abbreviation or acronym presented in parentheses.

**Foreign words and scientific names (genera, species, and subspecies):** These should be presented in italics (ex. *hatsake*, *in quarto*, *Vanga curvirostris*).

**Short direct quotations:** When less than three manuscript lines, these should be presented in italics, directly in the text, and start and terminate with quotation marks.

**Long direct quotations:** When these are greater than three manuscript lines, they should start on a separate line, indented 3 cm from the left, be presented in italics, and start and terminate with quotation marks.

**Measures and units:** All measures and units should follow the metric system.

**Format of statistics:** for example,  $t = 0.11$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $P = 0.0001$ .

**Reference citations within text:** References should be presented in standard Arial script with font size 12 pt. These should be presented in chronological order at the first level and alphabetic order at the second level, ex: Fisher *et al.* (1999), Fisher (2002, 2005), Rakotondrainibe (2002) or (Langrand & Wilmé, 1997; Hawkins, 1999; Messmer *et al.*, 2002).

All references cited in the text should appear in the Literature Cited section and vice versa. No abbreviations should be used within the Literature Cited section, such as journal titles, and citations should use the following styles:

\*Thesis

**Mahazotahy, S. 2006.** Etude de la variation de la formation végétale de la région du Parc National de Tsimanampesotse et intérêt de son extension : plaine côtière et plateau calcaire Mahafaly. Diplôme d'Etude Approfondies en Biodiversité et Environnement, Université de Toliara.

\* Book

**Cornet, A. 1972.** *Carte bioclimatique de Madagascar*. Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique d'Outre-Mer, Paris.

\* Journal papers

**Cibois, A., Silkas, B., Schulenberg, T. S. & Pasquet, E. 2001.** An endemic radiation of Malagasy songbirds revealed by mitochondrial DNA sequence data. *Evolution*, 55: 1198-1206.

\* Chapter in a monograph

**Goodman, S. M., Hawkins, A. F. A. & Razafimahaimodison, J.-C. 2000.** Birds of the Parc National de Marojejy, Madagascar: With reference to elevational distribution. In A floral and faunal inventory of the Parc National de Marojejy, Madagascar: With reference to elevational variation, ed. S. M. Goodman. *Fieldiana: Zoology*, new series, 97: 175-2000.

\* Chapter in a book

**Langrand, O. & Wilmé, L. 1997.** Effects of forest fragmentation on extinction patterns of the endemic avifauna on the Central High Plateau of Madagascar. In *Natural change and human impact in Madagascar*, eds. S. M. Goodman & B. D. Patterson, pp. 280-305. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C.

**Figures:** Figures, which includes graphs, maps, line illustrations, and photos, should be numbered (Arab script) sequentially following their order in the text. Figures should be presented in black and white. In exceptional cases color illustrations can be used, but the cost of these will be charged to the corresponding author. When submitting an article, low-resolution figures should be sent in JPEG format. Once the article has been accepted for publication, the authors should submit high-resolution versions of the

associated figures. If these do not pass through our server as attached email files, they should be copied onto a CD and sent via the post or hand-delivered to the Vahatra office.

**Tables:** These should be formatted in WORD and numbered (Arabic script) sequentially following their order in the text.

**Page proofs:** Before publication of an article, authors will receive page proofs for correction; it is mandatory that these be returned within 10 days of receipt. Changes to page proofs should be limited to typesetting errors.

**Page charges:** Currently there are no page charges for publication of papers in *Malagasy Nature*.

**Reprints:** Authors will not receive reprints of their article, but rather a pdf file of the published version.

## II. Other technical details

**Colons “:”** are preceded by a space for articles in French and without a space for articles in English. Within the reference section colons following volume numbers are not preceded by a space for manuscripts in French or English.

**Semicolons “;”** are preceded by a space for articles in French and without a space for articles in English.

When using **hyphens** in the text, a space should not be used before or after the hyphen (ex: pp. 55-57 and not pp. 55 - 57).

**Accents** should not be used for letters in uppercase (ex: Eléments and not Éléments).

In the text the **names of individuals** (given names followed by family name) should not be in uppercase, with the exception of the first letter (ex: P. Rakoto and not P. RAKOTO).

When using **abbreviations or acronyms**, individual letters should not be separated by periods (ex: ANGAP and not A.N.G.A.P.).

## Addresses for the submission of articles

**e-mail:** [edition@vahatra.mg](mailto:edition@vahatra.mg)

**Post:** Association Vahatra, BP 3972, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar

**Office (next to the Observatoire d'Ankatso):** Villa Ny Akaniko III, Lot VA 38 LB Ter A Ambohidempona, Tsiadana, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar. Telephone: (+261 20) 22-27755