

## Editorial

# When the small is beautiful: five years publishing short communications

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**Abstract.** Since the publication of the first issue in 2019, *Entomological Communications* has been publishing original and current short communications of basic and applied research in all areas of Entomology (including acarology and related arthropods). Throughout these years, *Entomological Communications* published 194 articles in six of its seven different sections (Bioassay, Editorial, Letter, Nomenclatural Act, Protocol & Techniques, Scientific Note, and Viewpoint). As of 2024, we are starting a new era to adapt the journal to Open Science. To this end, we encourage authors to publish in a new section focused on Data Papers.

**Keywords:** Data paper, entomology, open access, open data, scientific journal.

In 2022, the Entomological Society of Brazil (SEB) celebrated its 50th anniversary. In this half-century of dedication to entomology, SEB contributed significantly to the development of Brazilian entomology (Zucchi & Parra 2023). One of its main contributions, the “*Anais da Sociedade Entomológica do Brasil*”, now called *Neotropical Entomology*, has been one of the leading journals in the field of entomology in Latin America in the last 50 years (Fontes et al. 2021). In 2006, SEB created *BioAssay*, an electronic journal that publishes results from field and laboratory bioassays of pest control agents and products (Guzzo et al. 2023).

Following this line of innovations in scientific journals, SEB created *Entomological Communications* in 2019. It aims to publish articles on basic and applied entomology and related disciplines dedicated to the arthropod fauna in a short communication format (Fernandes & Pitta 2019). The journal's name and the logo were created by the first editor, Dr. Daniell R. R. Fernandes (Fig. 1). The logo represents the fusion of the two journal's name initials: EC. The logo's graphic art was developed by designer Fabio Noletto.

Over the past five years, the editors of *Entomological Communications* have been looking for ways to speed up internal peer review processes and adapt the journal to good editorial practices required by key bibliographic indicators. Aiming at a wider dissemination of the journal within areas related to entomology, in 2021, we signed an unprecedented partnership with the organizing committee of the VII Brazilian Symposium on Acarology (VII SIBAC) to publish short communications derived from this event (Melo et al.

2021), which was held entirely online, due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Articles submitted to the event with the intention of being published in *Entomological Communications* were first evaluated by the scientific committee, and those approved were submitted to the journal for peer review. This partnership enabled the publication of 17 articles related to acarology (16 published as Scientific Note and one as Viewpoint).

Between 2019 (volume 1) and 2023 (volume 5), *Entomological Communications* published 194 articles divided into seven sections (Fig. 2). In the same period, more than 300 manuscripts were received for evaluation in the journal, what demonstrates that the scientific community has embraced the idea of the journal and has regularly contributed with manuscripts.

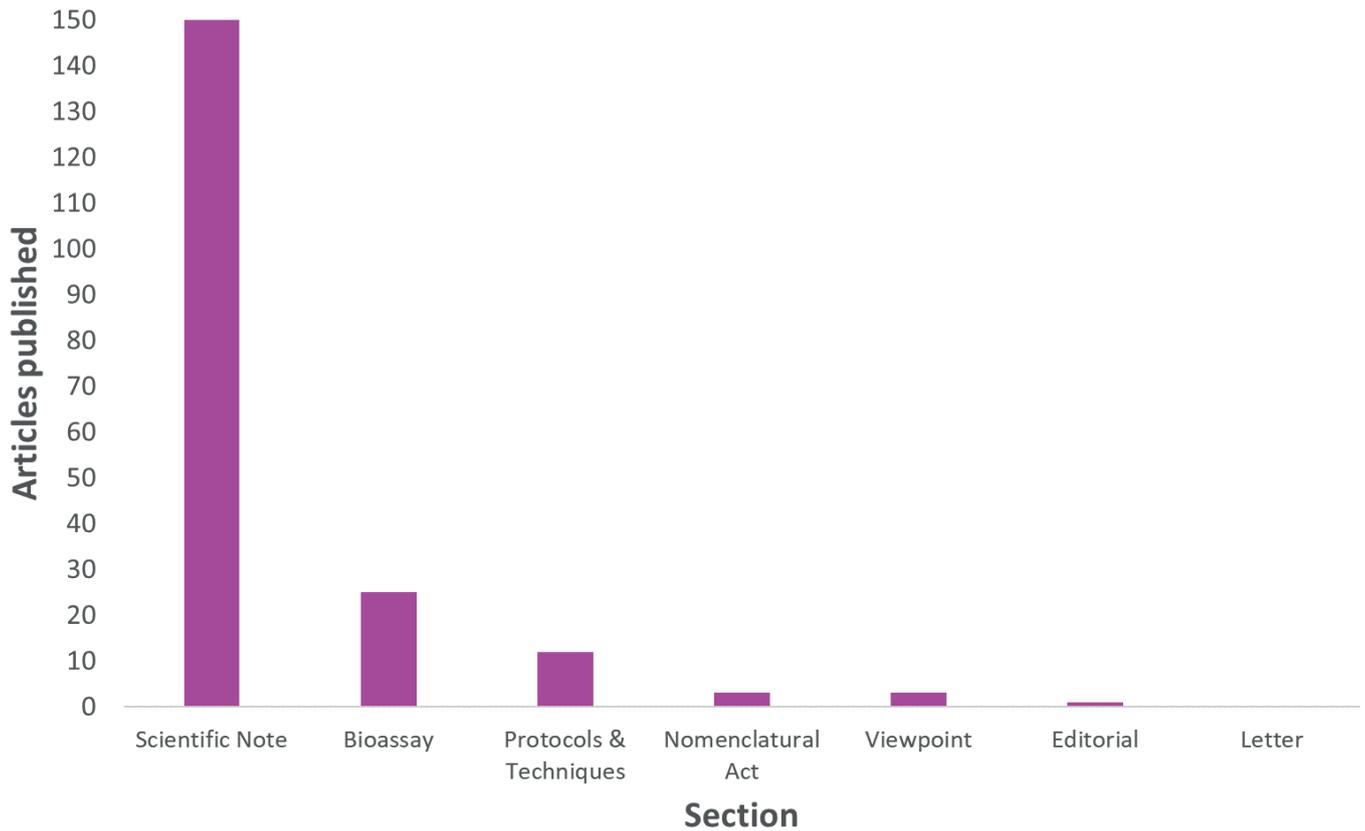
Although the journal gives authors the option of publishing articles, both in English and Portuguese, in this period, the average number of articles published in Portuguese was below 20% of the total, with 25.0 % in 2019, 18.4% in 2020, 16.4% in 2021, 14.3% in 2022, and 20.9% in 2023 (Fig. 3).

According to Google Scholar metrics, of the 194 articles published so far, 89 have already been cited (a total of 291 citations) (Fig. 4). This gives us a rate of 1.5 citations per article. However, it is important to note that, when analyzing these data further, we found that a high percentage of citations comes from the Viewpoint section, with 98 citations in only three published articles, which gives us an average of 32.7 citations per article in this section.



ENTOMOLOGICAL  
Communications

Figure 1. Entomological Communications logo.



**Figure 2.** Number of articles published in each section by Entomological Communications, between 2019 and 2023 (n=194).

On the other hand, the Nomenclatural Act section, created to disseminate any nomenclatural act accepted by International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), has received three citations in three published articles. However, as it is still a recent addition to the journal's portfolio, we hope it will be used as more as it becomes better known by the scientific community.

Overall, by the end of 2023, articles published on *Entomological Communications* had received 92,383 views, something quite positive for a journal with little activity time. Although the Scientific Note has the highest number of accesses (47,633) and citations (154), Viewpoint is relatively the section with the most accesses (3,397.33 views per article), as well as the most citations (around 32 citations per article), which highlights the importance of publishing this type of article in our journal (Tab. 1).

Throughout these five years, *Entomological Communications* was registered in 14 indexing bases, and these numbers will increase to reach the most recognized indexing bases in the scientific community. At the same time that we are guiding our journal toward the desired quality, we also see new doors opening in the scientific world. Recently, several articles have discussed the role of Open Science and its impact on the future.

Open Science, a movement that promotes the free and open sharing of research results, has gained significant attention in the academic and scientific community in recent years. This approach encourages

unrestricted dissemination of research data, methods, publications, and related materials. Many scientific journals have embraced this philosophy, enabling greater access and sharing of knowledge. In other words, Open Science promotes transparency and sharing of research data and makes knowledge accessible through collaborative networks (Vicente-Saez & Martinez-Fuentes 2018).

### Changes in the sections

Aiming better to adapt *Entomological Communications* to the Open Science movement and also to increase visibility, some recent changes were made to some sections of the journal, as follows:

#### Closing of the Bioassay Section

This section was designed to cover part of the scope left by the *BioAssay* journal hiatus between 2016 and 2020. However, with the recent resumption of *BioAssay*, this section lost part of its original function, and the articles published in it can easily be relocated to the Scientific Note section. Thus, full-length articles within this scope can be submitted directly to *BioAssay* sections (Research Article, Review, and Forum) (see Guzzo et al. 2023).

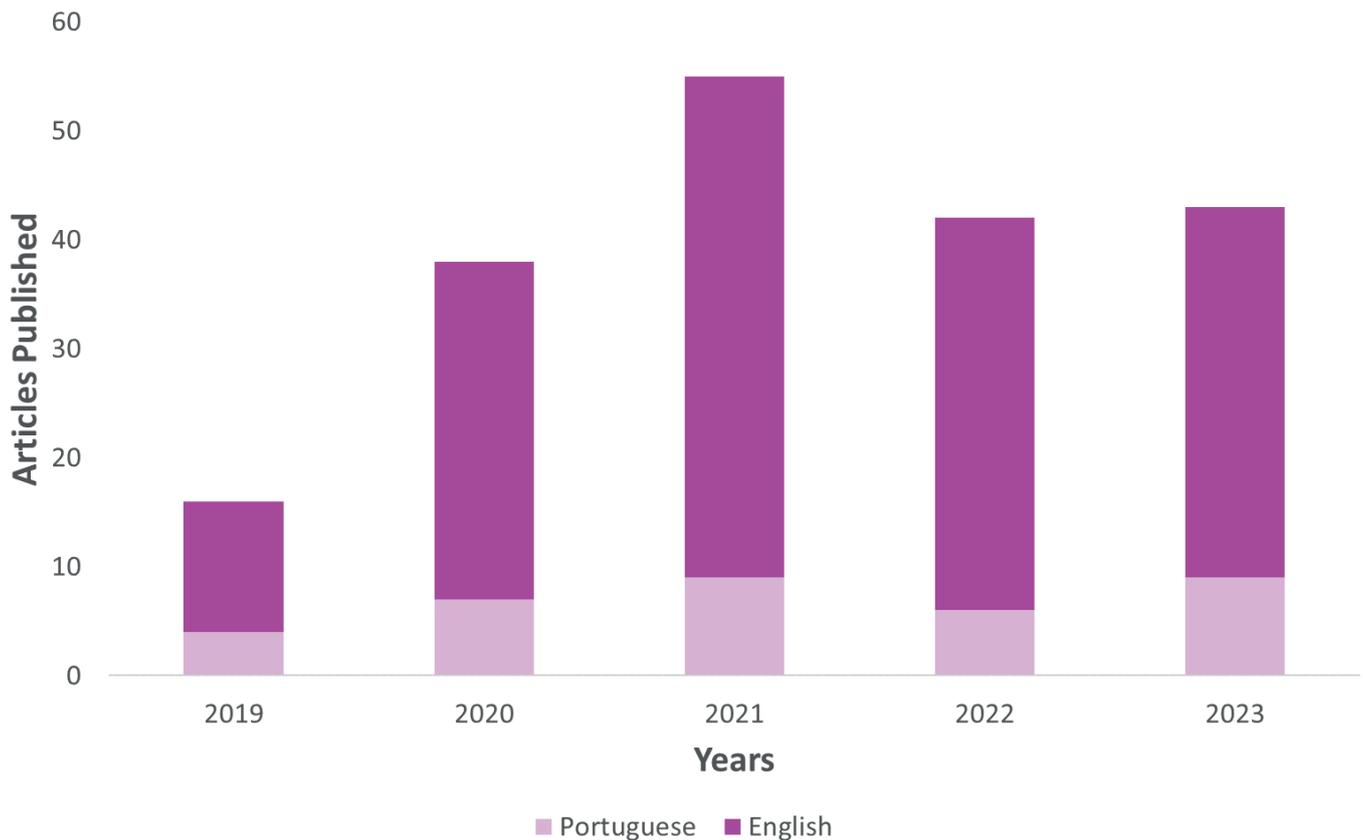
#### Creation of Nomenclatural Act Section

This section was created in 2022 to publish taxonomic short

**Table 1.** Papers published by Entomological Communications (2019-2023).

Section	Articles	Views	Views/Article	Citations*	Citations*/Article
Scientific Note	149	47,633	319.68	154	1.03
Bioassay	26	20,536	789.85	25	0.96
Protocol & Techniques	12	10,929	910.75	7	0.58
Nomenclatural Act	3	1,441	480.33	3	1.00
Viewpoint	3	10,192	3,397.33	98	32.67
Editorial	1	1,652	1,652.00	4	4.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>92,383</b>	<b>4,882</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1.50</b>

\*Source: Google Scholar – December 2023.



**Figure 3.** Number of articles published in English and Portuguese by Entomological Communications, between 2019 and 2023 (n=194).

communications, which have a nomenclatural act governed by ICZN in their scope. This section innovates by creating a separate context introduced under *Taxonomic Authorities*. It aims to clarify the taxon name authors mentioned in the article. To date, three articles (Grazia et al. 2022; Reche & Gallardo 2023; Toma 2023) have been published in this section, the first of which also describes a new species.

In non-taxonomic papers, although it is generally recommended that the author and year be given at the first mention of a species name, the reference is not usually included in the literature cited. Nevertheless, in some of the most high-profile non-taxonomic journals, including full taxonomic references would increase the manuscript size by no more than one and a half references per printed page, on average. (Vink et al. 2012; Zeppelini et al. 2021). Therefore, we chose to add a way of ensuring that taxon authors are cited in references and encouraging other journals to do so as well.

### Creation of Data Paper Section

Aiming to facilitate the dissemination and reuse of data, a new section entitled *Data Paper* was designed, inspired mainly by templates from similar sections of journals with a more ecological scope and/or focused on biodiversity, such as Biodiversity Data Journal, Ecology, and Scientific Data.

Data Papers are documents that provide detailed descriptions of research datasets. They offer information about the origin, collection, structure, format, and interpretation of data, giving meaningful context to those who wish to understand and utilize these datasets. In other words, Data Papers are a form of publication that highlights and thoroughly describes a specific dataset. The importance of Data Papers for scientific advancement is significant and can be underscored by the following points:

**Open Access to Data:** By publishing Data Papers, researchers share not only their results but also the underlying data. This promotes open access to datasets, enabling other researchers to use this information in their investigations.

**Promotion of Data Reuse:** Data Papers encourage the reuse of datasets. By providing a comprehensive and understandable description of the data, researchers facilitate using this information in

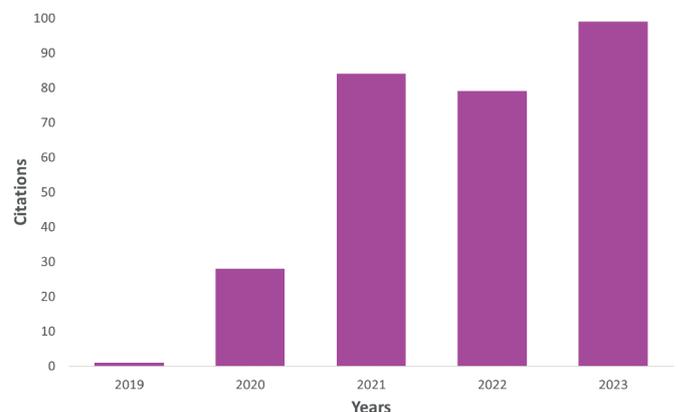
diverse contexts, expanding the impact and utility of datasets.

**Transparency and Reproducibility:** Data Papers contribute to transparency and reproducibility in research. Offering detailed information about data collection and processing allows other researchers to comprehend and replicate the results, contributing to the validation and reliability of the research.

**Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity:** Publishing Data Papers can facilitate collaboration and interdisciplinary research. Different disciplines can leverage published datasets to address varied questions, promoting synergy across distinct research areas.

**Citation and Recognition:** Publishing Data Papers provides a formal way to cite datasets. This is crucial to give proper credit to the creators of the data, acknowledging their work and encouraging the creation of high-quality datasets.

In summary, Data Papers are crucial in promoting transparency, sharing, and effective use of research data. By facilitating open access, reproducibility, and collaboration, they contribute to global scientific advancement, fostering a more open and collaborative culture within the scientific community.



**Figure 4.** Evolution of the annual number of citations of articles published by Entomological Communications, between 2019 and 2023. Source: Google Scholar.

## The Future of Entomological Communications

We are grateful to SEB and the Subject Editors, Reviewers, Authors, and Contributors, who believed in this project and made *Entomological Communications* possible. The Editorial Board will continue to grow, as well as the diversity of the areas covered by the journal, segments of society, representations of gender and ethnicity, and international coverage to meet the challenges to come. Finally, we invite the entire scientific community to continue trusting *Entomological Communications* to disseminate its data in a brief, fast, open access, and quality way.

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## Authors' Contributions

DRRF: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. RMP: Conceptualization, Data curation, Formal Analysis, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing.

## Conflict of Interest Statement

All authors have declared that there is no conflict of interest.

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