

Nature Style Guide for Biology Thesis Students

General guidelines (nature.com/nature/for-authors/formatting-guide): When in doubt, consult your thesis advisor and look at PDFs of recently published research articles (rather than “*Nature Letters*” or “*News and Views*”) in the journal *Nature* at nature.com/nature/archive, for example, see [this linked reference](#):

The 1000 Genomes Consortium. An integrated map of genetic variation from 1,092 human genomes. *Nature* **491**, 56-65 (2012).

References (bibliography)

For *Nature* style, numbered endnotes take the place of a bibliography; they are placed after the Discussion, before Methods.

Note: Do not use Microsoft Word’s “Insert Endnote” feature because more than one endnote may need to have the same number if it refers to the same reference. You can use *EndNote*’s Cite While You Write™ application, or you can manually put them at the end of your thesis text. If putting them in manually, the keyboard shortcut to change an endnote number to superscript is CTRL+SHIFT+= in Windows, or CMD+SHIFT+= on a Mac.

- More than 5 authors: Give only the first author followed by *et al.* in *italics*; put a space between first and middle initials.
- *Only* the first word of the article title and proper nouns in the article title are capitalized.
Chapter titles are optional, but see number 10; the name of the author of the chapter is often sufficient.
- Journal titles and book titles are *italicized*, but website and thesis titles are in regular text. Capitalize each major word of journal, book, website, and thesis titles. A period separates a subtitle from the title for a book. Use standard abbreviations for journal titles as listed here: <http://tinyurl.com/short-titles>
- Volume numbers are **bold**.
- The year of publication is always listed last, inside parentheses, followed by a period.

For a book, inside parentheses, the year is preceded by the publisher, which is followed by a comma.

1. Mehrkam, L. R. & Wynne, G. D. L. Behavioral differences among breeds of domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*): current status of the science. *Appl. Anim. Behav. Sci.* **155** (2014). Journal article, 2 authors
2. Kuo, T.-H. *et al.* Aging modulates cuticular hydrocarbons and sexual attractiveness in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *J. Exp. Biol.* **215**, 814-821 (2012). Journal article –6 or more authors
3. Amphibians & Reptiles of Peninsular Malaysia. <http://www.amphibia.my/> (2009). Website
4. CDC. Chronology of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Outbreaks. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/outbreak-table.html> (accessed, 15 August 2014). Website that is updated frequently
5. Taylor, K. C. WAIS Divide Ice Core Project: end of season field report 2008/2009. http://www.waisdivide.unh.edu/docs/EOS-Field-Reports_2008-2009.pdf (2009). Report
6. Sciolino, E. & Bennhold, K. Chirac strays from assailing a nuclear Iran. *The New York Times* <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/01/world/europe/01france.html> (1 February 2007). News article
7. Weishampel, D. B. Dodson, P., Osmólska, H., & Hilton, R. P. *The Dinosauria* 2nd edn (Univ. of California Press, 2004). Book edition other than the first
8. Shishlina, N. *Reconstruction of the Bronze Age of the Caspian Steppes. Life Styles and Life Ways of Pastoral Nomads*. Vol. 1876 (Archaeopress, 2008). Book with a subtitle that is a volume in a series
9. Sachs, A. J. & Hunger, H. *Astronomical Diaries and Related Texts from Babylonia*. Vol.3 *Diaries from 164 B.C. to 61 B.C.* (Verlag der Osterreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1996). Book with volume number & unique title
10. Imhoff, J. F., Hiraishi, A. & Süling, J. Anoxygenic Phototrophic purple Bacteria. In *Bergey’s Manual of Systematic Bacteriology* (eds Brenner, D. J. *et al.*) Vol. 2, part A, 119–132 (Springer, 2005). Chapter in an edited book that is a volume divided into parts
11. Headly, M. A. *Krypton and xenon in air trapped in polar ice cores: paleo-atmospheric measurements for estimating past mean ocean temperature and summer snowmelt frequency*. PhD thesis, Univ. California, San Diego (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 2008). PhD thesis
12. Tembo, M. *Characterization of New Familial Mutants of Parkinson’s Disease Protein α -Synuclein Using Yeast Models*. Senior thesis, Lake Forest College (2015). LFC thesis

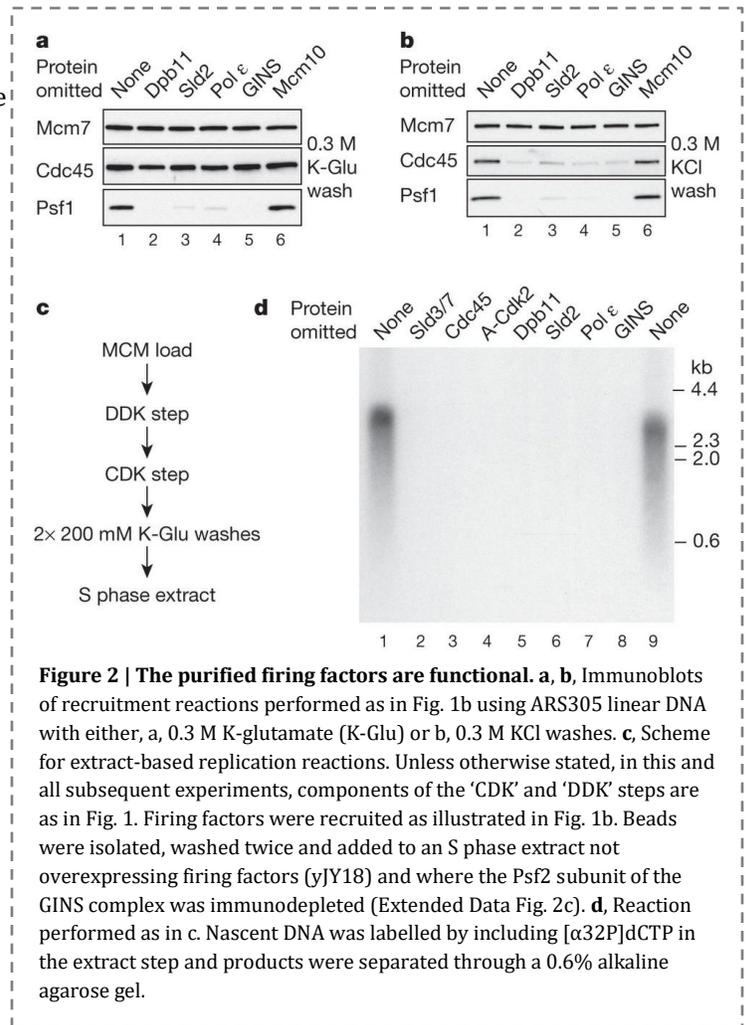
Figures

- Adjacent to each figure put a legend: Using 12 pt. **bold** font, begin with the word Figure followed by a space, the number of the figure, a space, a pipe (a vertical line produced with Shift+Back-slash key), a space, and the title of the figure. *Only* the first word of the figure title and proper nouns are capitalized. Parts of the figure are labeled with bold, lower case letters.
- Refer to your figures in your text with parenthetical notes, abbreviate Figure as Fig. For example:

...To investigate whether the complex we assembled might be functional...

See this figure and the text referring to it on page 432 of this article:

Yeeles, J. T. P., Deegan, T. D., Janska, A., Early, A. & Diffley, J. F. X. Regulated Eukaryotic Dna Replication Origin Firing with Purified Proteins. *Nature* **519**, 431-435 (2015).



Tables

- Tables should be created from data gathered by the thesis author rather than copied from published works.
- Above the table, in **bold**, put the word Table followed by a space, the number of the Table, a space, a pipe (a vertical line produced with Shift+back slash key), a space, and the title of the table.
- *Only* the first word of the table title and proper nouns are capitalized.
- Below the table define any abbreviations or symbols used in the table, one per line.
- Refer to the table in the text by the word Table followed by its number.

See this table and the text referring to it on page 56 of this article:

The 1000 Genomes Consortium. An integrated map of genetic variation from 1,092 human genomes. *Nature* **491**, 56-65 (2012).

Table 1 | Summary of 1000 Genomes Project phase I data

| | Autosomes |
|--|-----------|
| Samples | 1,092 |
| Total raw bases (Gb) | 19,049 |
| Mean mapped depth (\times) | 5.1 |
| SNPs | |
| No. sites overall | 36.7 M |
| Novelty rate [†] | 58% |
| No. synonymous/non-synonymous/nonsense | NA |
| Average no. SNPs per sample | 3.60 M |
| Indels | |
| No. sites overall | 1.38 M |
| Novelty rate [†] | 62% |
| No. inframe/frameshift | NA |
| Average no. indels per sample | 344 K |
| Genotyped large deletions | |
| No. sites overall | 13.8 K |
| Novelty rate [†] | 54% |
| Average no. variants per sample | 717 |

NA, not applicable.

^{*}Autosomal genes only.

[†]Compared with dbSNP release 135 (Oct 2011), excluding contribution from phase I 1000 Genomes Project (or equivalent).