

1 What do ecology and evolutionary biology journal websites communicate  
2 about their policies and preferences regarding replication studies?

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12 **Abstract**

13 The replication of prior research is a cornerstone of the scientific process and valued as  
14 such in ecology and evolutionary biology. However, it appears replication studies are  
15 nowhere near as prevalent in the published literature as might be expected if they were a  
16 routine part of building confidence in research findings. This may be due in part to the  
17 widespread perception of replication studies as a low-status activity. Journal policies have an  
18 important role in shaping researchers' behaviour and willingness to conduct and publish  
19 replications. Many journals project a preference for novel methods, findings, or ideas, which  
20 discourages, and sometimes overtly precludes, submission of replication studies, while  
21 others actively invite them. Given this variety, authors have an interest in determining the  
22 extent to which replication studies are welcomed by their target journal, but this can be hard  
23 to identify from journal websites. We examined what information about journal policy on  
24 replication studies could be found on the websites of 233 ecology/evolutionary biology  
25 journals. We found that only 31 of 226 eligible journals (13.7%) provided any information  
26 about replication studies on their websites. Among journals that provided information on  
27 replications, discouraging or not accepting replication studies was more common than  
28 actively encouraging them, with only four journals (1.8%) explicitly encouraging replication  
29 studies. In addition, 75 (33%) journals used novelty-related language (i.e., language that  
30 may implicitly devalue replication work) on their websites. Together, our findings suggest that  
31 explicit policies on replication studies remain rare, and that unclear or discouraging signals  
32 about replication research are common in ecology and evolutionary biology journals. We  
33 therefore provide recommendations to improve the clarity and transparency of journal  
34 policies regarding replication studies.

35

36 **Keywords:** open science, replicability, rigor, transparency, publishing, metaresearch

## 37 Introduction

38 The “fundamental assumption” underlying the accumulative progress of science is that  
39 “findings are real and replicable” (Nakagawa & Parker, 2015). However, ten years ago,  
40 Nakagawa and Parker (2015) argued that “Low reproducibility has been recognized as an  
41 issue in ecology and evolution for a long time, but little has been done to confront it” and  
42 suggested that “To build confidence in our understanding, we must conduct multiple robust  
43 replications and combine their results with quantitative research synthesis.” More distant  
44 conceptual replications can then follow to help the community “converge on an explanation  
45 for a finding that is not dependent on any one methodology” (Nosek & Errington, 2017).

46 Replication is primarily important because any single dataset represents a sample, and so  
47 estimates from a single study will likely vary from the true underlying values. This is critically  
48 acknowledged by methods like meta-analysis, which combine results of multiple studies to  
49 gain clearer insight into underlying processes. Direct replication therefore allows us to  
50 assess the robustness of any single result and increases generalisability (Spake et al.,  
51 2022). Second, replication helps address what has been referred to as the 'replication crisis'.  
52 A combination of a preference from journals for publishing statistically significant results  
53 (publication bias), the prevalence of low power studies, and high rates of questionable  
54 research practices (QRPs) leads to inflated effect sizes and increased rates of false positive  
55 results in the published literature (Ioannidis, 2005; Sterne et al., 2000; Button et al. 2013;  
56 Forstmeier et al., 2016). Meta-research in ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB) shows  
57 clear evidence of publication bias and low power (Yang et al., 2022, 2023), high rates of  
58 QRPs by researchers (Fraser et al., 2018) and evidence of these QRPs in published  
59 literature (Kimmel et al., 2023). Together this has resulted in an estimated fourfold inflation of  
60 effect sizes in EEB (Yang et al., 2022, 2023), and means that the published literature is a  
61 poor representation of true processes we study, with any single published study having a low  
62 probability of successful replication (in terms of statistical significance, comparable effect  
63 sizes etc.). The most direct way to address this problem is to actively replicate studies,  
64 reducing the reliance on single studies where the effects are likely inflated. Finally,  
65 replication represents the only real way to combat research fraud. Routine replication means  
66 that anomalous results are more likely to be discovered, and more importantly with many  
67 replications the influence of fraud on our cumulative knowledge is small.

68 A recent survey of researchers in ecology showed that participants generally “considered  
69 replication studies to be important, want to see more of them in the literature and support  
70 publishing them” (Fraser et al., 2020). However, Fraser et al. (2020) note a disconnect  
71 between these sentiments and the low volume of published replications in EEB, particularly

72 on the direct replication end of the spectrum. Kelly (2019) estimated that only 0.023% of  
73 papers in ecology were labelled as replications. Conceptual or quasi-replication studies are  
74 arguably somewhat common and accepted (Kelly 2006, 2019; Madden et al., 1995; Mulkey  
75 & Gilbert, 1986; Nakagawa & Parker, 2015). Indeed, Meziaris & Regnier (2007) observed that  
76 the literature reviews that precede new research frequently position it to extend past findings  
77 in a way that resembles conceptual replication. However, attempts to chart the prevalence of  
78 replication studies rely upon authors having identified them as such (Fuess, 1996; Kelly,  
79 2019), which in ecology and evolutionary biology appears rare (Kelly, 2019).

80 Along with structural and logistical challenges, the low number of published replication  
81 studies has been attributed, in part, to the “emphasis placed on originality of contribution by  
82 the publication, promotion and tenure processes” (Vachon et al., 2021). In a survey of journal  
83 editors across a range of disciplines (Madden et al., 1995), over half the editors from natural  
84 sciences reported that their journals never publish replications. Even some editors and  
85 journals that signal acceptance of replication studies evince a preference for “replication and  
86 extension” studies, in which some replication occurs as a building block for new pursuits  
87 (Fuess, 1996; Madden et al., 1995). Discerning which conditions must be replicated to  
88 support a conclusion, arguably a “substantial intellectual contribution” of replication studies  
89 (Fraser et al., 2020) appears not to be widely recognized or prioritized. This perception can  
90 affect researcher choices even when journals are sympathetic—some editors surveyed by  
91 Madden et al. (1995) stated they are open to publishing replications but receive few or no  
92 submissions. In another indication of the perceived value of replications, Ottaviani et al.  
93 (2025) demonstrated that the prevalence of novelty language in published articles has  
94 increased dramatically in recent times (nearly doubling from 1997 to 2017), whereas the use  
95 of confirmatory language (e.g. replicate) has remained low and constant through that time.  
96 At best, close replications seem to be widely regarded as a public good that individuals do  
97 not benefit from conducting or presenting as confirmatory.

98 Journals have a well recognized role to play in changing norms around replication. A review  
99 of papers examining barriers and strategies for promoting replication (Vachon et al., 2021)  
100 identified periodic calls for journals to offer replication guidelines going back to 1987.  
101 Replication is among the eight standards in the Transparency and Openness Promotion  
102 (TOP) framework (Grant et al., 2025), which signatory journals can adopt to increase  
103 transparency in the research they publish. Some journals have additionally taken measures  
104 to actively encourage or even prefer replications (Fuess, 1996). Other policies (suggested or  
105 implemented) to establish priorities for replication efforts, given space considerations in  
106 journals, include limiting publication to replications of high interest studies or those whose  
107 sample size exceeds that of the original study (Parker et al., 2016). Some journals only

108 publish replications of studies previously published in their own journal or its peers (e.g.  
109 <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsos/replication-studies>), sometimes within a set timeframe.  
110 Publishing replications in a special issue is a broadly supported idea (Fraser et al., 2020;  
111 Vachon et al., 2021), though one that we worry may, by virtue of its infrequency, marginalize  
112 replication papers even while highlighting them.

113 Journals often instruct authors to describe their methods in sufficient detail to enable  
114 replication, but guidance on submitting replication studies for publication is often absent or  
115 discouraging. When available, journal policies on replication studies are variously  
116 communicated through posted journal submission guidelines, or in published editorials (e.g.  
117 Sayer & Ferry, 2023). Given the perceived preference for novel studies, and the variety of  
118 policies journals hold with respect to publishing replications, journals should aim to make  
119 their positions easy for authors to find. We aimed to investigate the extent to which ecology  
120 and evolutionary biology journals support or discourage replication efforts and publish  
121 replication article types.

122

## 123 **Methods**

124 This study was preregistered on the Open Science Framework  
125 (<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/GTV2Z>) before data collection.

126 We compiled a list of journals in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology by identifying all journals  
127 listed under the ‘Ecology’ or ‘Evolutionary Biology’ categories in the Web of Science Journal  
128 Citation Reports as of 2 May 2025. This search yielded 197 journals in Ecology and 54 in  
129 Evolutionary Biology; 18 appeared in both categories, resulting in a final set of 233 unique  
130 journals (Table S2). This dataset provided Journal Impact Factors (JIF) from 2023. One of  
131 these was reported as “<0.1”, which we included in our analysis as 0.1. The median Journal  
132 Impact Factor was 2.2 (mean 2.71, SD 2.3), ranging from 0.1 to 16.7.

133 For each of these journals, we aimed to collect data on their replication policy as  
134 communicated on the journal’s website. To refine our data collection approach, we piloted  
135 our methods on a subset of 34 journals (Table S1) prior to publishing our protocol. We first  
136 determined whether the journal published empirical research, and if not, recorded that  
137 replication studies are out of the journal’s scope and did not explore it further. For each  
138 journal that published empirical research, we reviewed the sections on the journal website  
139 that typically contain policy statements, such as ‘Aims and Scope’, ‘Accepted Article Types’,  
140 and ‘Author Guidelines’, to identify information related to replication studies. We recorded  
141 whether any replication-relevant text was present and archived URLs and text excerpts to  
142 support transparency and facilitate resolution of any conflicts in data extraction.

143 We noted whether journals explicitly used terms such as ‘replication’ and ‘replicate’ in the  
144 context of replication studies, or indirectly referenced replication studies (e.g., discussing  
145 submissions that ‘confirm previous findings’, or ‘confirmatory studies’). For all journals that  
146 mentioned replication (directly or indirectly), we classified their position into one of five  
147 categories: i) accepts and encourages replication studies; ii) accepts replication studies with  
148 a neutral or unspecified stance; iii) accepts replication studies but discourages their  
149 submission; iv) does not accept replication studies; or v) position cannot be determined.

150 When journals indicated that they accepted replication studies, we further categorised the  
151 format under which they could be submitted, using categories derived from the transparency  
152 framework used by Parker et al. (2022) and from patterns observed during preliminary  
153 screening: i) offers Registered Reports for replication studies (TOP Factor level 3); ii)  
154 conducts results-blind review for replication studies (TOP Factor level 2); iii) generally  
155 accepts replication studies; iv) offers replication studies as a dedicated article type; v)  
156 accepts replication studies under specified conditions (e.g., only for replications of articles  
157 previously published in the journal); vi) publishes replication studies as part of special issues;  
158 or vii) other. If journals explicitly mentioned replication studies (i.e. directly using the word  
159 ‘replication’), we used all these categories, and if a journal did not explicitly use the term  
160 “replication” we used categories iii–vii, as higher-level TOP categories require explicit  
161 reference to replication studies.

162 Journals often communicate a preference for novel findings, ideas, or methods that suggest  
163 replication studies would not be a high priority for publication, even if they are not explicitly  
164 excluded. We therefore also recorded whether journals expressed a preference for novelty,  
165 such as emphasising “novel insights,” “new ideas,” or “major advances”, because such  
166 language may implicitly devalue replication work. Where we encountered terms like  
167 “original”, which could be used in the sense of previously unpublished (in a journal) or in  
168 reference to new questions/ideas/findings, we used context to make our best determination  
169 of whether a journal’s website cumulatively communicates a preference for novelty. We  
170 coded these preferences dichotomously (“Yes”/“No”), accompanied by the relevant URLs  
171 and text excerpts.

172 All three authors conducted the journal-level searches for replication-related policies  
173 between May and October 2025, and two authors independently reviewed each journal.  
174 Terms such as “novel,” “original,” or “replication” can be used ambiguously (e.g., ‘replication’  
175 as within-study technical replicates, or ‘original’ in terms of previously unpublished work), so  
176 we reviewed conflicts incrementally as data collection progressed to establish consistent  
177 judgment across reviewers. All three authors discussed and resolved ambiguities to maintain  
178 coherence. Journal assignments were randomised using integer sets generated through

179 Random.org (Table S2). When journal websites were available only in languages outside the  
180 authors' proficiency, we used translation tools (e.g., Google Translate) and documented their  
181 use. Specifically, we used translation tools for five journals: *Ecologia Aplicada*, *Ecosistemas*,  
182 *Interciencia*, *South of Russia–Ecology Development*, and *Vestnik Tomskogo*  
183 *Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta–Biologiya*. We collected all data using a structured Google  
184 Form, and all variables and metadata are defined in Table S3.

185 The majority of our findings we present as descriptive statistics, rather than performing  
186 formal analysis. As it has been suggested that replication studies are not valued as highly as  
187 'novel' research, we conducted an exploratory analysis to investigate the association  
188 between journal replication policy and journal impact factor. To this end, we modelled log  
189 impact factor as the response variable in a linear model with two predictors: had information  
190 on replication (two-level factor) and mention of novelty preference (two-level factor). In our  
191 pre-registration, we also mentioned including replication policy (five-level factor), but given  
192 the very low number of journals with any replication policy, this would have been extremely  
193 underpowered to detect any effect, and so we did not include it. We conducted all data  
194 manipulation and analyses in R v4.4.0 (R Core Team, 2024).

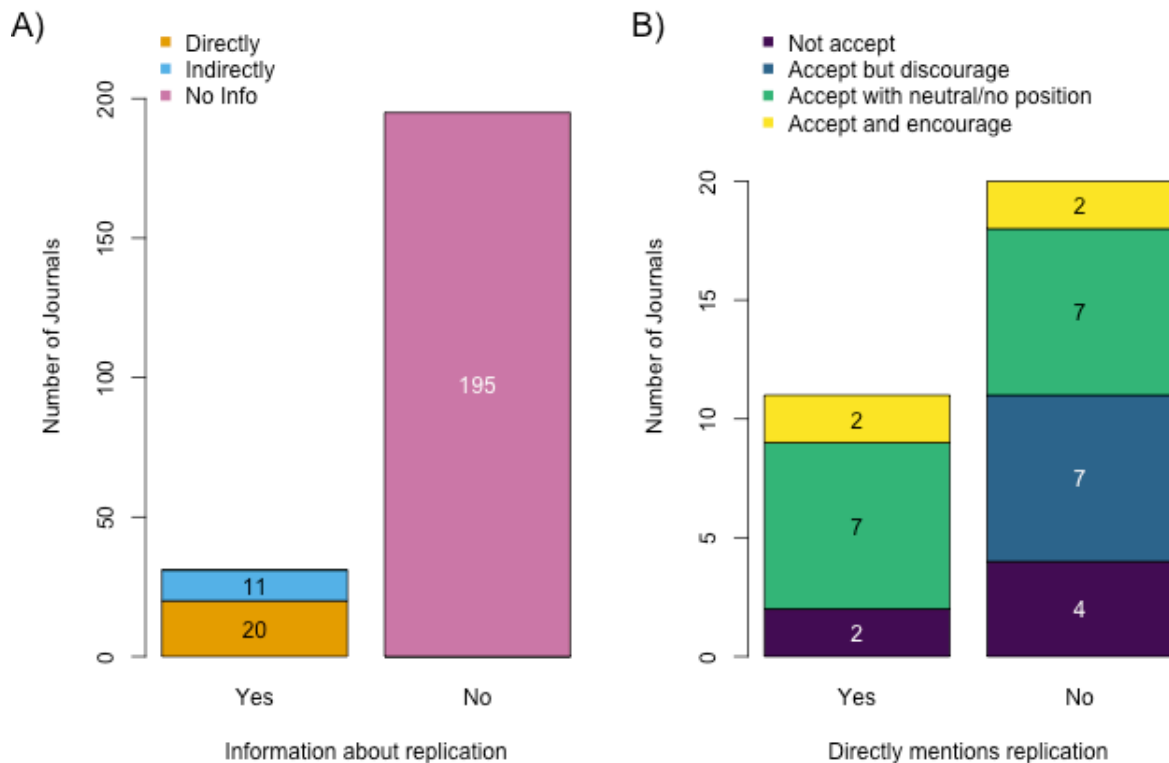
195

## 196 **Results**

### 197 ***Replication Policy***

198 Of the 233 ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB) journals in our sample, seven were out of  
199 scope. Out of the remaining 226 EEB journals, 31 (13.7%) had information on replications  
200 with 12 directly mentioning replications, and remaining 19 indirectly mentioning replications  
201 (e.g., by discussing submissions that 'confirm previous findings', or 'confirmatory studies')  
202 (Figure 1a). Of the 31 journals that had information on replications, four actively encouraged  
203 replications (*AoB Plants*, *Ecology and Evolution*, *European Journal of Soil Biology*, *Journal*  
204 *of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research*), 14 were neutral (i.e., they did not  
205 include explicit language supporting, discouraging, or rejecting replications), seven actively  
206 discouraged replications, and six stated that they do not accept replications. Although these  
207 numbers are small, journals that did not directly mention replications had a far higher  
208 proportion of negative policies than those that mentioned replication directly (Figure 1b).

209



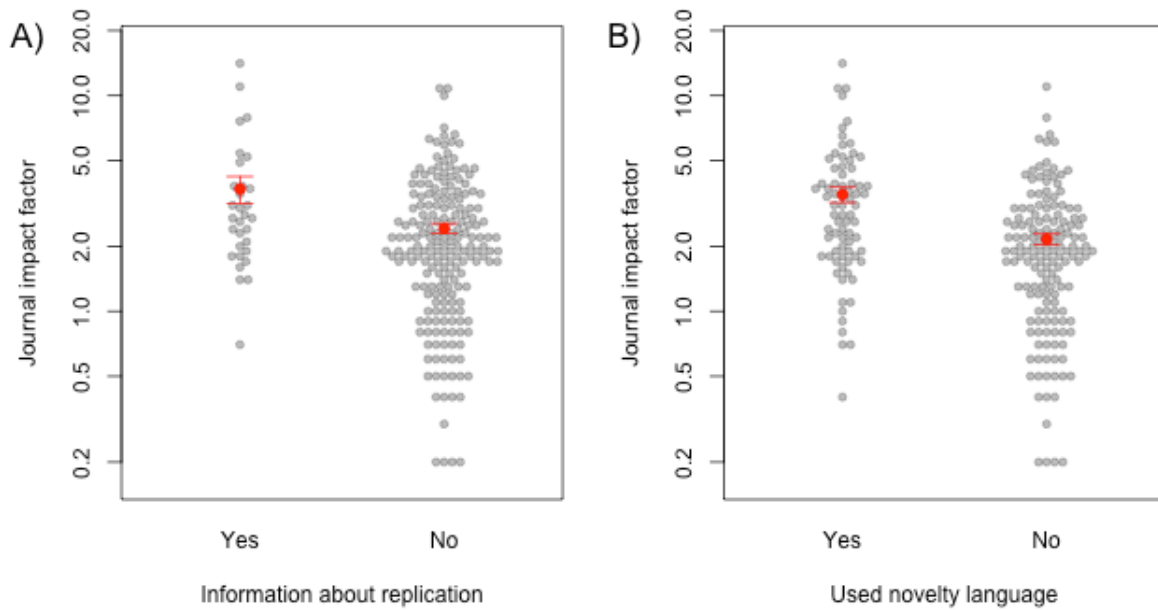
210

211 *Figure 1: A) Whether information on replication policy was presented, either directly*  
 212 *(mentioning the word replication), or indirectly (e.g. using words such as confirmatory) on*  
 213 *journal websites. B) Specific replication policy for those journals that directly or indirectly*  
 214 *mention replication. Numbers in the bars represent the number of journals within each*  
 215 *group.*

216

217 Most journals that accepted replications (categories Accept and encourage, Accept with  
 218 neutral/no position, Accept but discourage) accepted them as general article types (19/25),  
 219 four journals accepted replications in specific article types (e.g. short communications) and  
 220 two journals (*Nature Ecology and Evolution* and *Frontiers in Conservation Science*) accept  
 221 replications as registered reports (which fulfils the requirements of level 3 in the TOP  
 222 Factor), although *Nature Ecology and Evolution* specify that replications must be ‘high  
 223 value’.

224 Journal websites that had any information about replications had significantly higher impact  
 225 factors (Estimate+/-SE=0.386+/-0.142, t=2.72, p=0.007; Figure 2a), but there were not  
 226 enough journals with information on replications to break this down further by replication  
 227 policy.



228

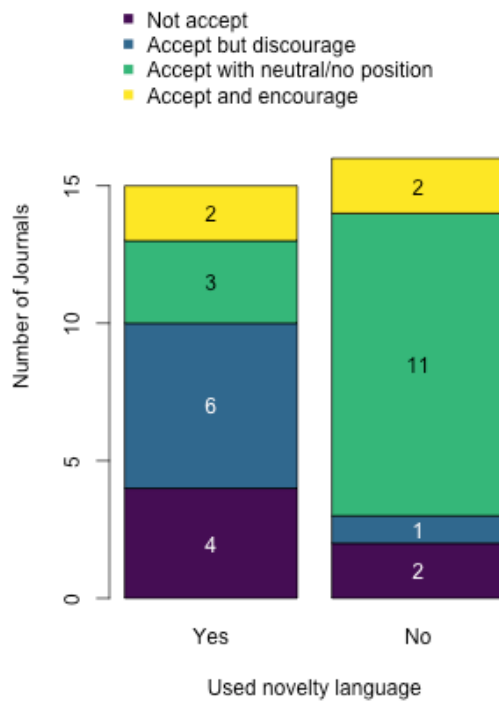
229 *Figure 2: Association between journal impact factor and A) whether journals have information on*  
 230 *replication on their websites, or B) whether a journal website used novelty language. Grey points*  
 231 *show the raw data, and red point the mean +/- SE.*

232

### 233 **Novelty Language**

234 Among 226 eligible EEB journals in our sample, 75 (33%) journals used novelty-related language  
 235 (i.e., language that may implicitly devalue replication work) on their websites. Of the journals that  
 236 had information on replications, the majority of those using novelty language discouraged or did  
 237 not accept replications, whereas the majority that did not use novelty language had a neutral  
 238 position (Figure 3). Journals whose websites used novelty language had significantly higher  
 239 impact factors (Estimate+/-SE=0.479+/-0.104,  $t=4.619$ ,  $p<0.001$ , Figure 2).

240



241

242 *Figure 3: Replication policy for journals split by whether they use novelty language on their*  
 243 *website. Numbers in the bars represent the number of journals within each group.*

244

## 245 Discussion

246 Replication studies are a cornerstone of scientific rigour but remain rare in ecology and  
 247 evolutionary biology (EEB). Journal policy, and how well this policy is signposted to authors  
 248 on their websites, plays a key role in determining the publication of replication studies. Here  
 249 we quantified replication policy across 233 EEB journals.

250 Our most notable finding is that few journals communicate any replication policy at all, and  
 251 only around 5% of journals directly mention replication. This can be contrasted with the  
 252 comparatively prevalent communication of data and code sharing policy on journal websites,  
 253 another open science practice for increasing reliability (89% of EEB journals mention data  
 254 sharing and 77% mention code sharing; Ivimey-Cook et al. 2025). The difference in policy  
 255 visibility suggests that replications have received comparatively little attention in journal  
 256 guidance. Clearer communication of journal policies on replication studies could help reduce  
 257 uncertainty for authors and signal whether the journal welcomes such work.

258 Among journals with a discernable policy or position on replications, many more journals  
 259 actively discouraged than encouraged the submission of replication studies. This paints a  
 260 demoralizing picture of journal attitudes towards replication within EEB that largely matches

261 researchers' perceptions of replications as low value research (Fraser et al. 2020). Even  
262 within the small proportion of journals that have information on replication, nearly half (14 out  
263 of 31), also had no clear position on replications (i.e., were neutral). We can envision a  
264 research environment where publishing replication studies is a matter of course, and  
265 replications are accommodated in the regular publishing track among other primary research  
266 without special comment. However, while we acknowledge that journal and editor positions  
267 on replications likely vary within the category we have coded as neutral, given the prevailing  
268 preference for novelty in research culture, we would be hesitant to submit a replication study  
269 to a journal that did not actively encourage them. Our study only found encouraging policies  
270 in four out of 233 surveyed EEB journals. Given the low prevalence of published replication  
271 studies, specific encouragement by journals is warranted.

272 Journals can offer further encouragement of replications by offering a dedicated replication  
273 article type. This approach has the advantage of signaling that replications are within scope  
274 for the journal, and making them more discoverable by clearly identifying studies as  
275 replications and linking them to the original study. Publishing replications as a dedicated  
276 article type offers the opportunity to create distinct formatting expectations; for instance  
277 replications may be presented more concisely than regular research reports because they  
278 require far less introduction and discussion and can reference details in the original studies.  
279 An example of this approach can be seen in Behavioral Ecology, which recently announced  
280 a new Replication Studies section for close replications (Laskowski et al., 2026).

281 Roughly a third of journals in our sample expressed a preference for novelty, and higher  
282 impact factor journals were more likely to use novelty language on their websites. This is  
283 consistent with findings from Spake et al. (2022), who reported that 30% of the top 50  
284 ecological journals referenced novelty in their aims and scope, and with a recent unaffiliated  
285 study that showed novelty language within published articles correlates with publication in  
286 high-impact journals (Ottaviani et al., 2025). As a journal's high impact factor can be seen as  
287 a consequence of specializing in curating works that are likely to be seminal, we might  
288 expect that journals with high impact factors tend to use novelty language to communicate  
289 their preference for groundbreaking questions and results. Whilst perhaps unsurprising, our  
290 results provide empirical support for this idea that high impact factor journals seek novel  
291 research. Higher impact journals were also more likely to have information on replications on  
292 their websites, and so more clearly communicated their policy on replication. However, of the  
293 journals that had information on replication policy, most of the journals that used novelty  
294 language also had negative replication policy (where communicated; Figure 3). This  
295 therefore suggests that seeking novelty is consistent with not welcoming replication studies.  
296 If this finding extends to journals that don't communicate a replication policy, it may be fair to

297 assume the use of novelty language (which was far more common than the presence of a  
298 discernable replication policy) indicates the journal does not welcome replication studies.

299 Even if journals seek to differentiate themselves by focusing on groundbreaking methods or  
300 findings, they could at minimum, accept replications of studies published in their journal as a  
301 way to build confidence in the novel findings they publish, and model a commitment to  
302 reliable research. A focus on ‘novelty’ of results generates publication bias within these  
303 journals, and recent research has additionally shown evidence of p-hacking (selective  
304 reporting of statistically significant results) in prominent journals in EEB (Kimmel et al. 2023).  
305 The combination of these means that high impact journals are more at risk of publishing type  
306 one errors, and inflated effect sizes. Endorsing replications of their published studies is  
307 therefore a clear way for high impact journals to mitigate this risk. More broadly, we  
308 encourage journals, particularly those that accept replication studies, to use language that  
309 emphasizes sound science rather than novel ideas or findings when communicating about  
310 the journal scope or giving guidance to authors. This will help avoid implicitly discouraging  
311 replication work.

312

### 313 **Recommendations to Journals**

- 314 ● **Provide clear information about replication studies.** Journals should provide the  
315 journal’s position on replication studies (whether positive or negative) in both the  
316 *Aims and Scope* and the *Author Guidelines*. Editorials discussing the value of  
317 replication in the field are welcome, but they do not replace clear guidance at the  
318 point of submission. If a journal discourages or does not accept replication studies,  
319 they should recommend where authors wishing to replicate studies published in their  
320 journals should publish the replications. Journals should also review and update  
321 replication-related guidance regularly to ensure that policies remain clear and  
322 current.
- 323 ● **Encourage authors to clearly identify their study as a replication.** This improves  
324 discoverability and helps readers and reviewers understand the purpose and  
325 contribution of the work.
- 326 ● **Introduce a dedicated article type for replications.** Explicit recognition of  
327 replication research signals that such work is valued and helps authors identify  
328 suitable venues for submission. It also allows for a more concise format than primary  
329 papers.
- 330 ● **Consider offering the Registered Reports format for replication studies.**  
331 Registered Reports are a format in which the journal provides in-principle acceptance

332 to a study before the data is collected, and so is agnostic to the results. This reduces  
333 publication bias.

- 334 ● **Develop transparent and tailored review criteria for replication submissions.**  
335 Clear expectations can reduce confusion during peer review and help ensure that  
336 replication studies are evaluated according to appropriate standards. These criteria  
337 should align with the guidance provided to authors.
- 338 ● **Avoid overly strong novelty requirements that implicitly discourage**  
339 **replications.** Alongside explicit policy on replication studies, the use of language that  
340 emphasizes sound science rather than novel ideas or findings when communicating  
341 journal scope or author guidance will help avoid implicitly discouraging replication  
342 work.

343

#### 344 **Study limitations**

345 This study has several limitations. First, our sample was restricted to journals indexed in the  
346 Web of Science “Ecology” and “Evolutionary Biology” categories. This means that relevant  
347 interdisciplinary or emerging journals may not have been captured, some of which have  
348 developed with research rigor and transparency as a focus (e.g. Replication Research;  
349 <https://www.uni-muenster.de/Ejournals/index.php/replicationresearch/index>). However, our  
350 journal selection allowed us to examine the journals most frequently cited by researchers in  
351 these fields and included the majority of EEB society journals, providing a picture of the  
352 norms around journal policies and positions on replication studies.

353 Second, some replication-related guidance may have been missed if it was embedded in  
354 sections of journal websites that were difficult to locate or labelled in non-standard ways.  
355 Journal instructions vary greatly in structure and transparency, and it is possible that certain  
356 policies were not discoverable despite extensive searching. However, our assessment does  
357 reflect the information that is most likely to be found by an author when reading a journal's  
358 website.

359 In some cases, we experienced difficulty in assessing whether journal websites evinced a  
360 preference for novelty, due to ambiguous language. While we were able to come to a  
361 consensus on its interpretation through discussion, we expect that authors in EEB may still  
362 find the guidance confusing or take a different message from it.

363 Finally, our assessment reflects journal policies at one moment in time. Because journal  
364 practices and expectations surrounding replication continue to evolve, especially alongside  
365 broader shifts in open science, ongoing monitoring will be essential to capture future

366 changes. For example, since we performed the study, Behavioural Ecology have announced  
367 that they are supporting replication studies (Laskowski et al., 2026).

368

### 369 **Acknowledgements**

370 The impetus for this research was to apprise the Advocacy Committee of the Society for  
371 Open, Reliable, and Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology (SORTEE) of the state of  
372 replication policies and associated author guidance in ecology and evolutionary biology  
373 journals. While the findings will inform the activities of the Committee (of which LC and JP  
374 are current members and MP was a member during the research phase), the views  
375 expressed in this article are those of the authors and are not meant to represent the official  
376 position of the Society for Open, Reliable, and Transparent Ecology and Evolutionary biology  
377 (SORTEE). We thank Kate Laskowski for feedback on the pre-registration protocol.

378

### 379 **Conflict of interest**

380 The authors declare no conflicts of interest, but see Acknowledgements for a discussion of  
381 the impetus for this study.

382

### 383 **Data and code availability statement**

384 The data and code needed to reproduce the results and create figures have been deposited  
385 at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19683214> (Cabugos et al. 2026).

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392 Data Curation: JLP

393 Formal Analysis: JLP

394 Investigation: all authors

395 Methodology: all authors

396 Project Administration: LC

397 Validation: all authors  
398 Visualization: JP  
399 Writing – Original Draft Preparation: LC  
400 Writing – Review & Editing: all authors  
401

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What do ecology and evolutionary biology journal websites communicate about their policies and preferences regarding replication studies?

## **Supplementary Material**

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Table S1: Journals included in preliminary searches to refine data collection. Note that not all of these journals were in the final list

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| <b>Journal Name</b>                                     |
|---|
| Animal Behaviour  |
| Behavioural Ecology                                     |
| Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology                    |
| Conservation Biology                                    |
| Ecology   |
| Ecology and Evolution                                   |
| Ecology Letters   |
| Ethology  |
| Evolution   |
| Evolution Letters                                       |
| Functional Ecology                                      |
| Global Change Biology                                   |
| Heredity  |
| Journal of Animal Ecology                               |
| Journal of Applied Ecology                              |
| Journal of Ecology                                      |
| Journal of Evolutionary Biology                         |
| Methods in Ecology And Evolution                        |
| Molecular Ecology                                       |
| Nature Ecology and Evolution                            |
| Oikos   |
| Plos Biology  |
| Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences |
| The American Naturalist                                 |
| Acta Amazonica  |
| Acta Ecologica Sinica                                   |
| Acta Oecologica-International Journal Of Ecology        |
| African Journal Of Ecology                              |
| African Journal Of Range & Forage Science               |
| African Journal Of Wildlife Research                    |
| Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment                    |
| American Journal Of Biological Anthropology             |
| American Journal Of Physical Anthropology               |
| Animal Biotelemetry                                     |

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Table S2: Journals included in the study, along with their web of science category, and their assigned extractor

| ID | Journal  | Publisher                                | Category             | JP | LC | MP |
|----|--|--|----------------------|----|----|----|
| 1  | Ecosistemas  | Asociacion Espanola Ecologia Terrestre   | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 2  | Tropics  | Japan Soc Tropical Ecology               | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 3  | Journal Of Fish And Wildlife Management                  | U S Fish & Wildlife Service              | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 4  | Ecology And Society                                      | Resilience Alliance                      | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 5  | Rangeland Ecology & Management                           | Elsevier                                 | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 6  | Vestnik Tomskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta-Biologiya | Tomskij Gosudarstvennyi Univ             | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 7  | Ecological Monographs                                    | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 8  | Journal Of Biological Dynamics                           | Taylor & Francis Ltd                     | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 9  | Southwestern Naturalist                                  | Southwestern Assoc Naturalists           | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 10 | Restoration Ecology                                      | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 11 | Ecological Informatics                                   | Elsevier                                 | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 12 | Journal For Nature Conservation                          | Elsevier Gmbh                            | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 13 | Bulletin Of The Peabody Museum Of Natural History        | Peabody Museum Natural History-Yale Univ | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 14 | Cladistics   | Wiley                                    | Evolutionary Biology | 1  | 1  |    |
| 15 | Diversity-Basel  | Mdpi                                     | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 16 | Bulletin Of The American Museum Of Natural History       | Amer Museum Natural History              | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 17 | Annual Review Of Ecology Evolution And Systematics       | Annual Reviews                           | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 18 | Ecosphere  | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 19 | Isme Journal   | Oxford Univ Press                        | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 20 | Molecular Ecology  | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 21 | Northwest Science  | Northwest Scientific Assoc               | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 22 | Journal Of Experimental Marine Biology And Ecology       | Elsevier                                 | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |
| 23 | Molecular Biology And Evolution                          | Oxford Univ Press                        | Evolutionary Biology | 1  | 1  |    |
| 24 | Insect Systematics & Evolution                           | Brill                                    | Evolutionary Biology | 1  | 1  |    |
| 25 | Animal Biotelemetry                                      | Springernature                           | Ecology              | 1  | 1  |    |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>   | <b>Publisher</b>  | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|--|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 26        | Urban Ecosystems   | Springer  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 27        | Pedobiologia   | Elsevier Gmbh   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 28        | European Journal Of Soil Biology                               | Elsevier France-Editions Scientifiques Medicales Elsevier | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 29        | Russian Journal Of Ecology                                     | Pleiades Publishing Inc                                   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 30        | Polish Journal Of Ecology                                      | Polish Acad Sciences Inst Ecology                         | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 31        | Behavioral Ecology And Sociobiology                            | Springer  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 32        | Russian Journal Of Biological Invasions                        | Pleiades Publishing Inc                                   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 33        | Systematic Biology   | Oxford Univ Press   | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 34        | Journal Of Animal Ecology                                      | Wiley   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 35        | Evolution Medicine And Public Health                           | Oxford Univ Press   | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 36        | Aob Plants   | Oxford Univ Press   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 37        | Ecosystems And People  | Taylor & Francis Ltd                                      | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 38        | Ecotoxicology  | Springer  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 39        | Journal Of Arid Environments                                   | Academic Press Ltd- Elsevier Science Ltd                  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 40        | Journal Of Applied Ecology                                     | Wiley   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 41        | Journal Of Evolutionary Biology                                | Wiley   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 42        | Northeastern Naturalist  | Eagle Hill Inst   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 43        | Oryx   | Cambridge Univ Press                                      | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 44        | Marine Ecology Progress Series                                 | Inter-Research  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 45        | Genome Biology And Evolution                                   | Oxford Univ Press   | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 46        | Journal Of Tropical Ecology                                    | Cambridge Univ Press                                      | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 47        | Journal Of Wildlife And Biodiversity                           | Arak Univ, Arak   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 48        | Proceedings Of The Academy Of Natural Sciences Of Philadelphia | Acad Natural Sciences Phila                               | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 49        | Bmc Ecology And Evolution                                      | Bmc   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 50        | Polar Research   | Open Academia Ab  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 51        | African Journal Of Ecology                                     | Wiley   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 52        | Functional Ecology   | Wiley   | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 53        | Polar Science  | Elsevier  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>  | <b>Publisher</b>                             | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|---|--|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 54        | Frontiers In Forests And Global Change                | Frontiers Media Sa                           | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 55        | Vie Et Milieu-Life And Environment                    | Observatoire Oceanologique Banyuls           | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 56        | Plant Ecology   | Springer                                     | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 57        | Journal Of Systematic Palaeontology                   | Taylor & Francis Ltd                         | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 58        | Regional Studies In Marine Science                    | Elsevier                                     | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 59        | Ecological Engineering                                | Elsevier                                     | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 60        | Aquatic Ecology                                       | Springer                                     | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 61        | Pacific Conservation Biology                          | Csiro Publishing                             | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 62        | Landscape And Ecological Engineering                  | Springer Japan Kk                            | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 63        | Eco Mont-Journal On Protected Mountain Areas Research | Austrian Acad Sciences Press, Univ Innsbruck | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 64        | Methods In Ecology And Evolution                      | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 65        | Ecological Complexity                                 | Elsevier                                     | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 66        | Conservation Physiology                               | Oxford Univ Press                            | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 67        | Invertebrate Systematics                              | Csiro Publishing                             | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 68        | Isme Communications                                   | Springernature                               | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 69        | Evodevo   | Bmc  | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 70        | Evolutionary Bioinformatics                           | Sage Publications Ltd                        | Evolutionary Biology | 1         | 1         |           |
| 71        | Ecological Management & Restoration                   | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 72        | Movement Ecology                                      | Bmc  | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 73        | African Journal Of Range & Forage Science             | Taylor & Francis Ltd                         | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 74        | Acta Ecologica Sinica                                 | Elsevier                                     | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 75        | Journal Of Plant Ecology                              | Oxford Univ Press                            | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 76        | South Of Russia-Ecology Development                   | Kamerton Publisher                           | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 77        | One Ecosystem   | Pensoft Publishers                           | Ecology              | 1         | 1         |           |
| 78        | Ecological Applications                               | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 79        | Journal Of Ecology                                    | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 80        | Phytocoenologia                                       | Gebruder Borntraeger                         | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>  | <b>Publisher</b>                           | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|---|--|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 81        | Wildlife Monographs   | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 82        | Journal Of Evolutionary Biochemistry And Physiology           | Pleiades Publishing Inc                    | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 83        | Zoologica Scripta   | Wiley                                      | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 84        | Polish Polar Research   | Polska Akad Nauk, Polish Acad Sciences     | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 85        | Journal Of Zoological Systematics And Evolutionary Research   | Wiley-Hindawi                              | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 86        | Biotropica  | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 87        | Biodiversity And Conservation                                 | Springer                                   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 88        | Fungal Ecology  | Elsevier Sci Ltd                           | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 89        | Neotropical Biology And Conservation                          | Pensoft Publishers                         | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 90        | Freshwater Biology  | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 91        | Fire Ecology  | Springer                                   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 92        | International Journal For Parasitology-Parasites And Wildlife | Elsevier                                   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 93        | Plants People Planet  | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 94        | Mammal Review   | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 95        | Development Genes And Evolution                               | Springer                                   | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 96        | Anthropological Science                                       | Anthropological Soc Nippon                 | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 97        | Journal Of Biogeography                                       | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 98        | Czech Polar Reports   | Masaryk Univ Press                         | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 99        | Ecoscience  | Taylor & Francis Inc                       | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 100       | Revista Chilena De Historia Natural                           | Soc Biologia Chile                         | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 101       | American Journal Of Biological Anthropology                   | Wiley                                      | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 102       | Biological Invasions  | Springer                                   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 103       | Behavioral Ecology  | Oxford Univ Press Inc                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 104       | Community Ecology   | Springer Heidelberg                        | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 105       | Rangeland Journal   | Csiro Publishing                           | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 106       | African Journal Of Wildlife Research                          | Southern African Wildlife Management Assoc | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 107       | Biological Conservation                                       | Elsevier Sci Ltd                           | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 108       | Ecohydrology  | Wiley                                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>   | <b>Publisher</b>                         | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|--|--|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 109       | Theoretical Population Biology                                     | Academic Press Inc Elsevier Science      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 110       | International Journal Of Sustainable Development And World Ecology | Taylor & Francis Inc                     | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 111       | Journal Of Human Evolution   | Academic Press Ltd- Elsevier Science Ltd | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 112       | Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment                               | Elsevier                                 | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 113       | Chemoecology   | Springer Basel Ag                        | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 114       | Evolutionary Biology   | Springer                                 | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 115       | Ecological Economics   | Elsevier                                 | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 116       | Chemistry And Ecology  | Taylor & Francis Ltd                     | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 117       | Oecologia  | Springer                                 | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 118       | Food Webs  | Elsevier                                 | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 119       | Animal Conservation  | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 120       | Contemporary Problems Of Ecology                                   | Maik Nauka/Interperiodica/Springer       | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 121       | Frontiers In Ecology And The Environment                           | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 122       | People And Nature  | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 123       | Trends In Ecology & Evolution                                      | Cell Press                               | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 124       | Acta Amazonica   | Inst Nacional Pesquisas Amazonia         | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 125       | Australian Systematic Botany                                       | Csiro Publishing                         | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 126       | Ecological Solutions And Evidence                                  | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 127       | New Zealand Journal Of Ecology                                     | New Zealand Ecol Soc                     | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 128       | Wetlands   | Springer                                 | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 129       | American Journal Of Physical Anthropology                          | Wiley                                    | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 130       | Theoretical And Applied Ecology                                    | Llc Publishing House, Kamerton           | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 131       | Biological Journal Of The Linnean Society                          | Oxford Univ Press                        | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 132       | Nature Ecology & Evolution   | Nature Portfolio                         | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 133       | Diversity And Distributions  | Wiley                                    | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 134       | Neobiota   | Pensoft Publishers                       | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 135       | Arctic Science   | Canadian Science Publishing              | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>                             | <b>Publisher</b>   | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|--|--|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 136       | Molecular Ecology Resources                | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 137       | Environmental Biology Of Fishes            | Springer   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 138       | Global Ecology And Biogeography            | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 139       | Ecology And Evolution                      | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 140       | Evolution                                  | Oxford Univ Press  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 141       | Ecology Letters                            | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 142       | Ecological Modelling                       | Elsevier   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 143       | Journal Of Natural History                 | Taylor & Francis Ltd                                       | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 144       | Organisms Diversity & Evolution            | Springer Heidelberg  | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 145       | Biosystems Diversity                       | Oles Honchar Dnipropetrovsk Natl Univ                      | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 146       | Paleobiology                               | Cambridge Univ Press                                       | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 147       | Wildlife Biology                           | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 148       | Israel Journal Of Ecology & Evolution      | Brill  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 149       | Applied Ecology And Environmental Research | Aloki Applied Ecological Research And Forensic Inst Ltd    | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 150       | Evolutionary Human Sciences                | Cambridge Univ Press                                       | Evolutionary Biology | 1         |           | 1         |
| 151       | Journal Of Wildlife Management             | Wiley  | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 152       | Ecological Processes                       | Springer   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 153       | Freshwater Science                         | Univ Chicago Press   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 154       | Aquatic Microbial Ecology                  | Inter-Research   | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 155       | Aquatic Invasions                          | Regional Euro-Asian Biological Invasions Centre-Reabic     | Ecology              | 1         |           | 1         |
| 156       | Hacquetia                                  | Sciendo  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 157       | Journal Of Freshwater Ecology              | Taylor & Francis Inc                                       | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 158       | Ecological Questions                       | Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikolaja Kopernika                | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 159       | Journal Of Chemical Ecology                | Springer   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 160       | Global Ecology And Conservation            | Elsevier   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 161       | Compost Science & Utilization              | Taylor & Francis Inc                                       | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 162       | Ecohydrology & Hydrobiology                | European Regional Centre Ecohydrology Polish Acad Sciences | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 163       | Austral Ecology                            | Wiley  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>   | <b>Publisher</b>  | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|--|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 164       | Journal Of Vegetation Science                              | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 165       | Polar Biology  | Springer  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 166       | Soil Ecology Letters                                       | Springernature  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 167       | Ecologia Aplicada  | Univ Nacional Agraria La Molina                             | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 168       | Biology Letters  | Royal Soc   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 169       | Natural Areas Journal                                      | Natural Areas Assoc   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 170       | Polar Record   | Cambridge Univ Press  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 171       | Journal Of Molecular Evolution                             | Springer  | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 172       | Interciencia   | Interciencia  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 173       | Oikos  | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 174       | Human-Wildlife Interactions                                | Jack H Berryman Inst  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 175       | Systematic Botany  | Amer Soc Plant Taxonomists                                  | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 176       | American Naturalist  | Univ Chicago Press  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 177       | Fire-Switzerland   | Mdpi  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 178       | Proceedings Of The Linnean Society<br>Of New South Wales   | Linnean Soc New South Wales                                 | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 179       | Ecology  | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 180       | International Journal Of Ecology &<br>Development          | Centre Environment Social &<br>Economic Research Publ-Ceser | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 181       | Conservation Biology                                       | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 182       | Evolutionary Applications                                  | Wiley   | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 183       | Southeastern Naturalist                                    | Eagle Hill Inst   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 184       | Perspectives In Plant Ecology<br>Evolution And Systematics | Elsevier Gmbh   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 185       | Journal Of Soil And Water<br>Conservation                  | Soil Water Conservation Soc                                 | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 186       | Western North American Naturalist                          | Brigham Young Univ  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 187       | Ecography  | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 188       | Ecologies  | Mdpi  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 189       | Ecosystem Services   | Elsevier  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 190       | Evolution Letters  | Oxford Univ Press   | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 191       | Global Change Biology                                      | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 192       | Ecosystems   | Springer  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 193       | Applied Vegetation Science                                 | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>   | <b>Publisher</b>                              | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|--|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 194       | Landscape Ecology  | Springer                                      | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 195       | Natural History  | Natural History Magazine                      | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 196       | Ecological Research  | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 197       | Journal Of Heredity  | Oxford Univ Press Inc                         | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 198       | Marine Biology Research  | Taylor & Francis As                           | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 199       | Systematic Entomology  | Wiley   | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 200       | Web Ecology  | Copernicus Gesellschaft Mbh                   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 201       | Remote Sensing In Ecology And Conservation                                   | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 202       | Wildlife Research  | Csiro Publishing                              | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 203       | Biogeosciences   | Copernicus Gesellschaft Mbh                   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 204       | Neotropical Biodiversity   | Taylor & Francis Ltd                          | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 205       | Biochemical Systematics And Ecology  | Pergamon-Elsevier Science Ltd                 | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 206       | Evolution & Development  | Wiley   | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 207       | Proceedings Of The Royal Society B-Biological Sciences                       | Royal Soc                                     | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 208       | Annales Zoologici Fennici  | Finnish Zoological Botanical Publishing Board | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 209       | Frontiers In Ecology And Evolution   | Frontiers Media Sa                            | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 210       | Population Ecology   | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 211       | Theoretical Ecology  | Springer Heidelberg                           | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 212       | Folia Oecologica   | Walter De Gruyter Gmbh                        | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 213       | Arid Ecosystems  | Pleiades Publishing Inc                       | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 214       | Journal Of Experimental Zoology Part B-Molecular And Developmental Evolution | Wiley   | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 215       | Plant Systematics And Evolution  | Springer Wien                                 | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 216       | Evolutionary Ecology   | Springer                                      | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 217       | Plant Species Biology  | Wiley   | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 218       | Flora  | Elsevier Gmbh                                 | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 219       | Tropical Ecology   | Springernature                                | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 220       | Heredity   | Springernature                                | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 221       | Ecological Restoration   | Univ Wisconsin Press                          | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 222       | Current Opinion In Insect Science  | Elsevier                                      | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |

| <b>ID</b> | <b>Journal</b>                                   | <b>Publisher</b>                    | <b>Category</b>      | <b>JP</b> | <b>LC</b> | <b>MP</b> |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 223       | Microbial Ecology                                | Springer                            | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 224       | European Journal Of Wildlife Research            | Springer                            | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 225       | Ideas In Ecology And Evolution                   | Queens Univ                         | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 226       | Acta Oecologica-International Journal Of Ecology | Elsevier                            | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 227       | Ecosystem Health And Sustainability              | Amer Assoc Advancement Science      | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 228       | Taxon  | Wiley                               | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 229       | Integrative Organismal Biology                   | Oxford Univ Press                   | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |
| 230       | Frontiers In Conservation Science                | Frontiers Media Sa                  | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 231       | Landscape And Urban Planning                     | Elsevier                            | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 232       | Basic And Applied Ecology                        | Elsevier Gmbh                       | Ecology              |           | 1         | 1         |
| 233       | Molecular Phylogenetics And Evolution            | Academic Press Inc Elsevier Science | Evolutionary Biology |           | 1         | 1         |

Table S3: Variables extracted from each journal website.

| Field#    | Variable   | Description  |
|-----------|--|--|
| SECTION 1 |  |  |
| 1         | Date   | The date of policy access (automatically recorded upon response submission through the Google Form).   |
| 2         | Extractor  | Initials of researcher extracting data.  |
| 3         | Journal name   | Copy-paste the journal name as listed in Table S2.   |
| 4         | Was information about the policy on publishing replication studies identified? | Yes [ <i>Move on to next section</i> ]<br>No [ <i>Skip to Section 8</i> ]<br>Out of scope for this journal (e.g. journal does not publish primary research articles) [ <i>Skip to Section 8</i> ]  |
| SECTION 2 |  |  |
| 5         | Location of the replication studies policy                                     | Select all applicable locations where the replication studies policy is provided: 'Journal Author instructions/guidelines', 'Journal editorial policies', 'Accepted article types', 'About the journal (e.g. aims and scope)', 'Other' (free text; provide the specific location if not listed). |
| 6         | Journal level policy text 1  | Copy-paste relevant text with instructions for authors regarding replication studies policies. Separate text blocks from the same page with /.   |
| 7         | Journal level policy URL 1   | Copy-paste the URL to the page where replication studies policy was found.   |
| 8         | Journal level policy text 2  | Copy-paste relevant text with instructions for authors regarding replication studies policies. Separate text blocks from the same page with /.   |
| 9         | Journal level policy URL 2   | Copy-paste the URL to the page where replication studies policy was found.   |
| 10        | Journal level policy text 3  | Copy-paste relevant text with instructions for authors regarding replication studies policies. Separate text blocks from the same page with /.   |
| 11        | Journal level policy URL 3   | Copy-paste the URL to the page where replication studies policy was found.   |
| 12        | Does journal mention replications?   | Yes [ <i>Move on to next section</i> ]<br>No [ <i>Skip to Section 5</i> ]  |
| SECTION 3 |  |  |
| 13        | If mentions replications, do they:   | Select one of the following policies on replications:  |

|           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
|           |  | <p>Accept and encourage (e.g. “Journal X welcomes studies that replicate previously published studies regardless of the findings”) [<i>Move on to next section</i>]</p> <p>Accept with neutral/no position (e.g. “Journal X publishes primary research articles, including replication studies”) [<i>Move on to next section</i>]</p> <p>Accept but discourage (e.g. “Journal X discourages submissions that merely confirm previous findings”) [<i>Move on to next section</i>]</p> <p>Not accept (e.g. “submissions that report work that merely confirms previous findings will generally not be considered”) [<i>Skip to Section 8</i>]</p> <p>Policy cannot be determined [<i>Skip to Section 8</i>]</p>  |
| SECTION 4 |  |  |
| 14        | How journal treats replication studies                   | <p>Choose all that apply:</p> <p>TOP Factor level 3: “Journal uses Registered Reports as a submission option for replication studies with peer review prior to observing the study outcomes.”</p> <p>Top Factor level 2: “Journal encourages submission of replication studies and conducts results blind review.”</p> <p>Journal generally accepts replication studies.</p> <p>Journal accepts replication studies as a special article type.</p> <p>Journal accepts replication studies under special conditions (such as within a particular time frame since publication of the replicated study, or in the same journal).</p> <p>Journal accepts replication studies as a special issue.</p> <p>Other</p> <p>[<i>Any answer, skip to Section 8</i>]</p> |
| 15        | Other accept category                                    | <p>Describe the policy corresponding to the choice of “Other” above (free text).</p> <p>[<i>Skip to Section 8</i>]</p>   |
| SECTION 5 |  |  |
| 16        | If journal doesn’t mention replication studies, do they: | <p>Choose one of the following:</p> <p>Accept and encourage (e.g. “Journal X welcomes studies that replicate previously published studies regardless of the findings”) [<i>Move on to next section</i>]</p> <p>Accept with neutral/no position (e.g. “Journal X publishes primary research articles”) [<i>Move on to next section</i>]</p> <p>Accept but discourage (e.g. “Journal X discourages submissions that merely confirm previous findings”) [<i>Move on to next section</i>]</p>  |

|           |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|
|           |  | <p>Not accept (e.g. “submissions that report work that merely confirms previous findings will generally not be considered”) [Skip to Section 8]</p> <p>Policy cannot be determined [Skip to Section 8]</p>   |
| SECTION 6 |  |  |
| 17        | If journal accepts, but doesn't mention, replication studies, do they:       | <p>Choose all that apply:</p> <p>Journal generally accepts replication studies [Skip to Section 8]</p> <p>Journal accepts replication studies as a special article type [Skip to Section 8]</p> <p>Journal accepts replication studies under special conditions (such as within a particular time frame since publication of the replicated study, or in the same journal) [Skip to Section 8]</p> <p>Journal accepts replication studies as a special issue [Skip to Section 8]</p> <p>Other [Move to next section]</p> |
| SECTION 7 |  |  |
| 18        | Other accept category  | Describe the policy corresponding to the choice of “Other” above (free text) [Move on to next section]   |
| SECTION 8 |  |  |
| 19        | Does journal language suggest a preference for novel methods/findings/ideas? | <p>Yes (e.g the journal prioritizes groundbreaking findings, but does not directly discourage replication submissions)</p> <p>No</p>   |
| 20        | Text indicating journal preference for novelty                               | <p>Copy-paste an illustrative example the language that suggests a preference for novelty.</p> <p>Separate different quotes with /.</p>  |
| 21        | URL of text indicating journal preference for novelty                        | Copy-paste URL where text indicating journal preference for novelty appears.   |
| 22        | Comments/notes   | Free text to note any other relevant information or observations by data extractors.   |
| 23        | Translation tool used  | Name of translation tool used for extraction from websites associated with this journal (free text field).   |