

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

3 Leyla Cabugos^{1†}, Joel L. Pick^{2†*}, Marija Purgar^{3†}

4 ¹Library, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California, United States of America

5 ²Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

6 ³Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

7 [†]Equal Contribution

8 ^{*}Corresponding author: joel.l.pick@gmail.com

9 ORCID: LC: 0000-0003-4031-3987, JLP: 0000-0002-6295-3742, MP: 0000-0002-7192-1486

10

11 **Abstract**

12 The replication of prior research is a cornerstone of the scientific process and valued as
13 such in ecology and evolutionary biology. However, it appears replication studies are
14 nowhere near as prevalent in the published literature as might be expected if they were a
15 routine part of building confidence in research findings. This may be due in part to the
16 widespread perception of replication studies as a low-status activity in that it is considered
17 lower priority than novel research and not typically incentivized. 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 which published empirical studies
26 (13.7%) provided any information about replication studies on their websites. Among
27 journals that provided information on replications, discouraging or not accepting replication
28 studies was more common than actively encouraging them, with only four journals (1.8%)
29 explicitly encouraging replication studies. In addition, 75 (33%) journals used novelty-related
30 language (i.e., language that may implicitly devalue replication work) on their websites.
31 Together, our findings suggest that explicit policies on replication studies remain rare, and
32 that unclear or discouraging signals about replication research are common in ecology and
33 evolutionary biology journals. We therefore provide recommendations to improve the clarity
34 and transparency of journal 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). Whilst research identifying a replication crisis started in other fields
57 (Ioannidis, 2005; Simmons et al., 2011; Open Science Collaboration, 2015; Errington et al.,
58 2021), more recent meta-research in ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB) shows clear
59 evidence of publication bias and low power (Yang et al., 2022, 2023), high rates of QRPs by
60 researchers (Fraser et al., 2018), and evidence of these QRPs in published literature
61 (Kimmel et al., 2023). In combination, this has resulted in an estimated fourfold inflation of
62 effect sizes in EEB (Yang et al., 2022, 2023), and means that the published literature is a
63 poor representation of true processes we study, with any single published study having a low
64 probability of successful replication (in terms of statistical significance, comparable effect
65 sizes etc.). The most direct way to address this problem is to actively replicate studies,
66 reducing the reliance on single studies where the effects are likely inflated. Finally,
67 replication represents the only real way to combat research fraud. Routine replication means
68 that anomalous results are more likely to be discovered, and more importantly, with many
69 replications the influence of fraud on our cumulative knowledge is small.

70 A recent survey of researchers in ecology showed that participants generally “considered
71 replication studies to be important, want to see more of them in the literature and support

publishing them” (Fraser et al., 2020). However, Fraser et al. (2020) note a disconnect between these sentiments and the low volume of published replications in EEB, particularly on the direct replication end of the spectrum. Whilst there are few estimates of the rate of direct replications, Kelly (2006) found no direct replications in just over 300 papers from behavioural ecology journals and, in another study, Kelly (2019) estimated that only 0.023% of papers in EEB were labelled as replications (based on a sample of 38,730). Conceptual or quasi-replication studies are arguably somewhat common and accepted (Kelly 2006, 2019; Madden et al., 1995; Mulkay & Gilbert, 1986; Nakagawa & Parker, 2015). Indeed, Mezas & Regnier (2007) observed that the literature reviews that precede new research frequently position it to extend past findings in a way that resembles conceptual replication. However, attempts to chart the prevalence of replication studies rely upon authors having identified them as such (Fuess, 1996; Kelly, 2019), which in EEB appears rare (Kelly, 2019).

Along with structural and logistical challenges, the low number of published replication studies has been attributed, in part, to the “emphasis placed on originality of contribution by the publication, promotion and tenure processes” (Vachon et al., 2021). In a survey of journal editors across a range of disciplines (Madden et al., 1995), over half the editors from natural sciences reported that their journals never publish replications. Even some editors and journals that signal acceptance of replication studies evince a preference for “replication and extension” studies, in which some replication occurs as a building block for new pursuits (Fuess, 1996; Madden et al., 1995). Discerning which conditions must be replicated to support a conclusion, arguably a “substantial intellectual contribution” of replication studies (Fraser et al., 2020) appears not to be widely recognized or prioritized. This perception can affect researcher choices even when journals are sympathetic—some editors surveyed by Madden et al. (1995) stated they are open to publishing replications but receive few or no submissions. In another indication of the perceived value of replications, Ottaviani et al. (2025) demonstrated that the prevalence of novelty language in published articles has increased dramatically in recent times (nearly doubling from 1997 to 2017), whereas the use of confirmatory language (e.g. replicate) has remained low and constant through that time. At best, close replications seem to be widely regarded as a public good that individuals do not benefit from conducting or presenting as confirmatory, although it has been pointed out that replicating high quality studies can provide beneficial training and publishing experience to student researchers (Laskowski et al., 2026).

Journals have a well recognized role to play in changing norms around replication. A review of papers examining barriers and strategies for promoting replication (Vachon et al., 2021) identified periodic calls for journals to offer replication guidelines going back to 1987. Replication is among the eight standards in the Transparency and Openness Promotion

(TOP) framework (Grant et al., 2025), which signatory journals can adopt to increase transparency in the research they publish. Some journals have additionally taken measures to actively encourage or even prefer replications (Fuess, 1996). Other policies (suggested or implemented) to establish priorities for replication efforts, given space considerations in journals, include limiting publication to replications of high interest studies or those whose sample size exceeds that of the original study (Parker et al., 2016). Some journals only publish replications of studies previously published in their own journal or its peers (e.g. <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsos/replication-studies>), sometimes within a set timeframe. Publishing replications in a special issue is a broadly supported idea (Fraser et al., 2020; Vachon et al., 2021), though one that we worry may, by virtue of its infrequency, marginalize replication papers even while highlighting them.

Journals often instruct authors to describe their methods in sufficient detail to enable replication, but guidance on submitting replication studies for publication is often absent or discouraging. When available, journal policies on replication studies are variously communicated through posted journal submission guidelines, or in published editorials (e.g. Sayer & Ferry, 2023). Given the perceived preference for novel studies, and the variety of policies journals hold with respect to publishing replications, journals should aim to make their positions easy for authors to find. Currently, we have no quantification of journal policy on replication in EEB, and so have no basis with which to understand the role journals play in apparent low replication rates. Here, our primary aim was to investigate the extent to which ecology and evolutionary biology journals support or discourage replication efforts through policy communicated on their websites and whether any journals have specific replication article types. We additionally quantified the use of novelty language on these websites, as this represents an alternative way in which replication may be indirectly dis-incentivised. Finally, as replications are often perceived as a low-status activity, we looked at the association between journal impact factor and both replication policy and the use of novelty language.

Methods

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

We compiled a list of journals in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology by identifying all journals listed under the 'Ecology' or 'Evolutionary Biology' categories in the Web of Science Journal Citation Reports as of 2 May 2025. This search yielded 197 journals in Ecology and 54 in Evolutionary Biology; 18 appeared in both categories, resulting in a final set of 233 unique

143 journals (Table S2). This dataset provided Journal Impact Factors (JIF) from 2023. One of
144 these was reported as “<0.1”, which we included in our analysis as 0.1. The median Journal
145 Impact Factor was 2.2 (mean 2.71, SD 2.3), ranging from 0.1 to 16.7.

146 For each of these journals, we aimed to collect data on their replication policy as
147 communicated on the journal’s website. To refine our data collection approach, we piloted
148 our methods on a subset of 34 journals (Table S1) prior to publishing our protocol. In our
149 finalised data extraction, we first determined whether the journal published empirical
150 research, and if not, recorded that replication studies are out of the journal’s scope and did
151 not explore it further. For each journal that published empirical research, we reviewed the
152 sections on the journal website that typically contain policy statements, such as ‘Aims and
153 Scope’, ‘Accepted Article Types’, and ‘Author Guidelines’, to identify information related to
154 replication studies. We aided our reading of these sections by using the browser search for
155 the terms/stems: *replicat*, *confirm*, *novel*, *new*. We recorded whether any replication-relevant
156 text was present and archived URLs and text excerpts to support transparency and facilitate
157 resolution of any conflicts in data extraction.

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

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

177 Journals often communicate a preference for novel findings, ideas, or methods that suggest

178 replication studies would not be a high priority for publication, even if they are not explicitly
179 excluded. We therefore also recorded whether journals expressed a preference for novelty,
180 such as emphasising “novel insights,” “new ideas,” or “major advances” within the
181 aforementioned sections of the websites, because such language may implicitly devalue
182 replication work. Where we encountered terms like “original”, which could be used in the
183 sense of previously unpublished (in a journal) or in reference to new
184 questions/ideas/findings, we used context to make our best determination of whether a
185 journal’s website cumulatively communicates a preference for novelty. We coded these
186 preferences dichotomously (“Yes”/“No”), accompanied by the relevant URLs and text
187 excerpts.

188 All three authors conducted the journal-level searches for replication-related policies
189 between May and October 2025, and two authors independently reviewed each journal.
190 Terms such as “novel,” “original,” or “replication” can be used ambiguously (e.g., ‘replication’
191 as within-study technical replicates, or ‘original’ in terms of previously unpublished work), so
192 we reviewed conflicts incrementally as data collection progressed to establish consistent
193 judgment across reviewers. All three authors discussed and resolved ambiguities to maintain
194 coherence. Journal assignments were randomised using integer sets generated through
195 Random.org (Table S2). When journal websites were available only in languages outside the
196 authors’ proficiency, we used translation tools (e.g., Google Translate) and documented their
197 use. Specifically, we used translation tools for five journals: *Ecologia Aplicada*, *Ecosistemas*,
198 *Interciencia*, *South of Russia–Ecology Development*, and *Vestnik Tomskogo*
199 *Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta–Biologiya*. We collected all data using a structured Google
200 Form, and all variables and metadata are defined in Table S3.

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

211 During review, it was suggested that we account for publisher level effects. We initially
212 decided not to consider publishers, as whether or not to accept replications or to offer a
213 replication article type is an editorial decision. Our results are also predominantly descriptive.

214 However, we have included an exploratory analysis of variation among publishers in the
215 Supplementary Material.

216

217 **Results**

218 ***Replication Policy***

219 Of the 233 ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB) journals in our sample, seven were out of
220 scope because they did not publish empirical research. Out of the remaining 226 EEB
221 journals, 31 (13.7%) had information on replications with 12 directly mentioning replications,
222 and remaining 19 indirectly mentioning replications (e.g., by discussing submissions that
223 'confirm previous findings', or 'confirmatory studies') (Figure 1a). Of the 31 journals that had
224 information on replications, four actively encouraged replications (*AoB Plants*, *Ecology and*
225 *Evolution*, *European Journal of Soil Biology*, *Journal of Zoological Systematics and*
226 *Evolutionary Research*), 14 were neutral (i.e., they did not include explicit language
227 supporting, discouraging, or rejecting replications), seven actively discouraged replications,
228 and six stated that they do not accept replications. Although these numbers are small,
229 journals that did not directly mention replications had a far higher proportion of negative
230 policies (discouraging or rejecting replications) than those that mentioned replication directly
231 (Figure 1b). Post hoc exploratory analysis showed that none of the small publishers (defined
232 as those having only one journal in our sample, n=48) had any information on replication on
233 their websites (see Figure S2).

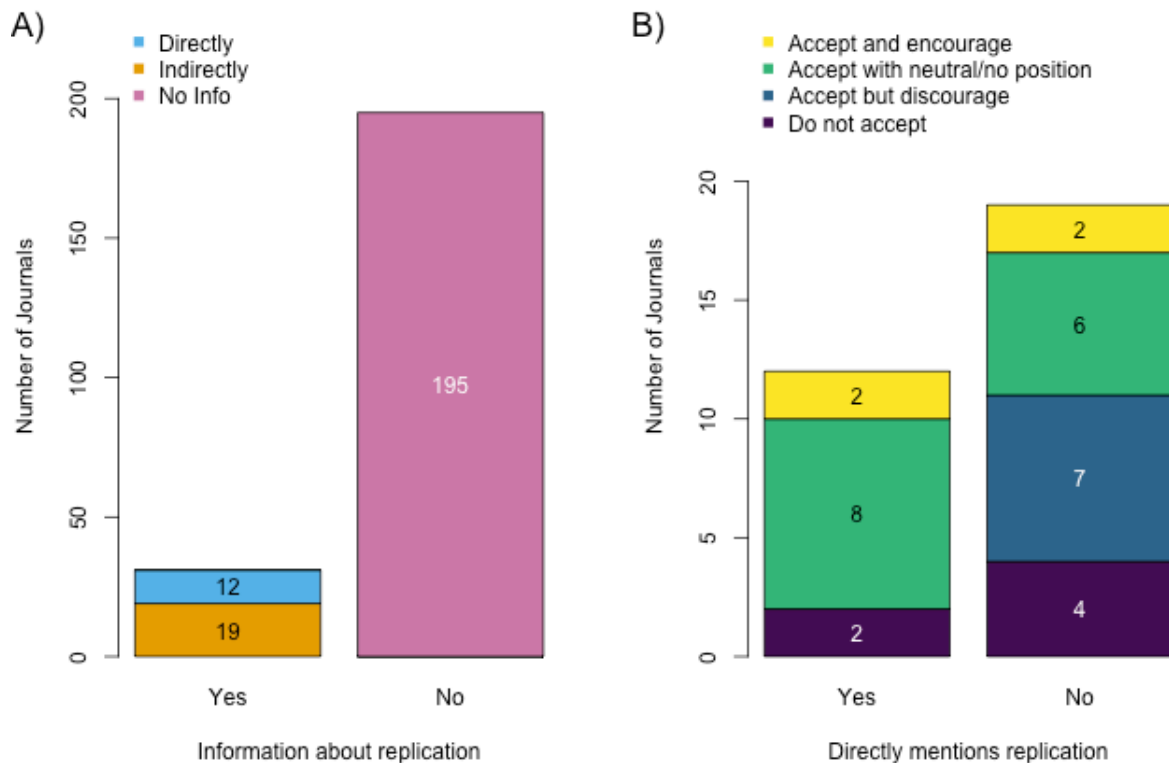


Figure 1: A) Whether information on replication policy was presented, either directly (mentioning the word replication), or indirectly (e.g. using words such as confirmatory) on journal websites. B) Specific replication policy for those journals that directly or indirectly mention replication. Numbers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

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

Journal websites that had any information about replications had significantly higher impact factors (Estimate+/-SE=0.386+/-0.142, $t=2.72$, $p=0.007$; Figure 2a, Table S4), but there were not enough journals with information on replications to break this down further by replication policy. Post-hoc exploratory analysis indicated there was variation across publishers in impact factor, and suggested that smaller publishers (those with only one journal in our sample) had systematically lower impact factors. Accounting for publisher level effects (by

including modelling them as random effects) did not qualitatively change this result, in terms of direction or statistical support (see Table S5).

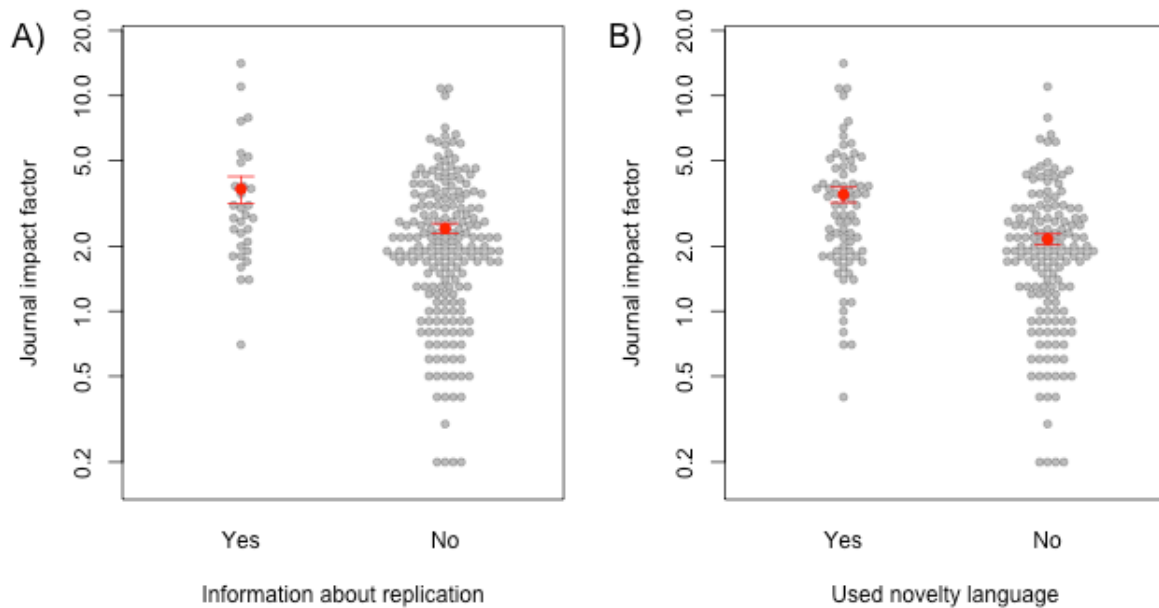


Figure 2: Association between journal impact factor and A) whether journals have information on replication on their websites, or B) whether a journal website used novelty language. Grey points show the raw data, and red point the mean $\pm$ SE.

Novelty Language

Among 226 eligible EEB journals in our sample, 75 (33%) journals used novelty-related language (i.e., language that may implicitly devalue replication work) on their websites. Of the journals that had information on replications, the majority of those using novelty language discouraged or did not accept replications, whereas the majority that did not use novelty language had a neutral position (Figure 3). Journals whose websites used novelty language had significantly higher impact factors (Estimate $\pm$ SE=0.479 $\pm$ 0.104, $t=4.619$, $p<0.001$, Figure 2b, Table S4). Accounting for publisher levels effects did not qualitatively change this result (see Supplementary Materials).

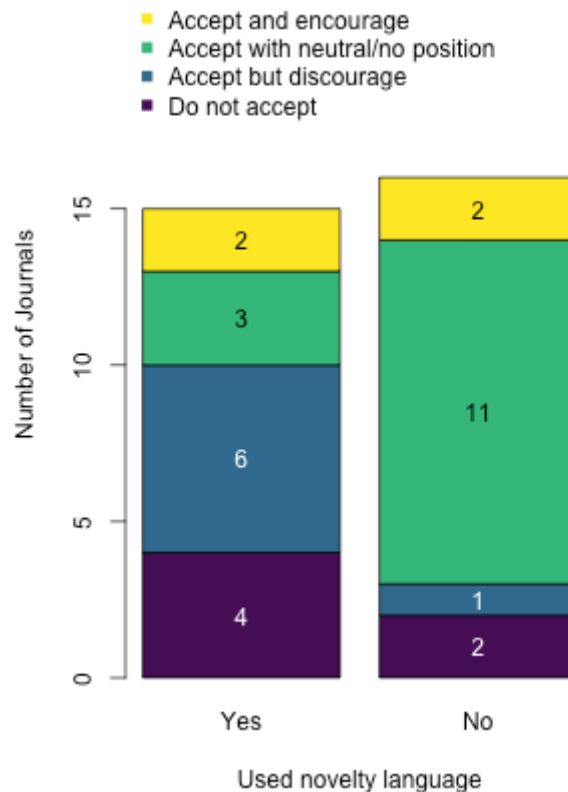


Figure 3: Replication policy for journals split by whether they use novelty language on their website. Numbers in the bars represent the number of journals within each group.

Discussion

Replication studies are a cornerstone of scientific rigour but remain rare in ecology and evolutionary biology (EEB). We posit that journal policy, and how well this policy is signposted to authors on their websites, plays a key role in determining the publication of replication studies. Here we quantified replication policies, as communicated on journal websites, across 233 EEB journals.

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

288 Among journals with a discernable policy or position on replications, many more journals
289 actively discouraged than encouraged the submission of replication studies. In our opinion,
290 this paints a demoralizing picture of journal attitudes towards replication within EEB that
291 largely matches researchers' perceptions of replications as low value research (Fraser et al.
292 2020). Even within the small proportion of journals that have information on replication,
293 nearly half (14 out of 31), also had no clear position on replications (i.e., were neutral). We
294 can envision a research environment where publishing replication studies is a matter of
295 course, and replications are accommodated in the regular publishing track among other
296 primary research without special comment. However, while we acknowledge that journal and
297 editor positions on replications likely vary within the category we have coded as neutral,
298 given the prevailing preference for novelty in research culture and higher levels of
299 discouraging versus encouraging replication policy when present, we would be hesitant to
300 submit a replication study to a journal that did not actively encourage them. Our study only
301 found encouraging policies in four out of 233 surveyed EEB journals. Given the low
302 prevalence of published replication studies, we recommend specific encouragement by
303 journals.

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

313 Roughly a third of journals in our sample expressed a preference for novelty, and higher
314 impact factor journals were more likely to use novelty language on their websites. This is
315 consistent with findings from Spake et al. (2022), who reported that 30% of the top 50
316 ecological journals referenced novelty in their aims and scope, and with a recent study that
317 showed novelty language within published articles correlates with publication in high-impact
318 journals (Ottaviani et al., 2025). As a journal's high impact factor can be seen as a
319 consequence of specializing in curating works that are likely to be seminal, we might expect
320 that journals with high impact factors tend to use novelty language to communicate their
321 preference for groundbreaking questions and results.

322 Higher impact journals were also more likely to have information on replications on their
323 websites, and so more clearly communicated their policy on replication. Past commentary

has associated high impact journals, particularly those with a track record of promoting rigorous reporting standards, with providing extensive instructions to authors (Gasparyan et al., 2014). Indeed, post hoc analysis showed that only larger publishers (with more than one journal in our sample) communicated any replication policy (see Supplementary Material and Figure S2) and, anecdotally, these websites were much more comprehensive. These larger publishers also had higher impact factors on average, which suggests that the association between replication policy and impact factor may in part be driven by variation by how comprehensive a website is (but see Figure S3). However, of the journals that had information on replication policy, most of the journals that used novelty language also had negative replication policy (where communicated; Figure 3). This therefore suggests that seeking novelty is consistent with not welcoming replication studies. If this finding extends to journals that don't communicate a replication policy, it may be fair to assume the use of novelty language (which was far more common than the presence of a discernable replication policy) indicates the journal does not welcome replication studies.

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

Recommendations to Journals

- **Provide clear information about replication studies.** Journals should provide the journal's position on replication studies (whether positive or negative) in both the *Aims and Scope* and the *Author Guidelines*. Editorials discussing the value of replication in the field are welcome, but they do not replace clear guidance at the point of submission. If a journal discourages or does not accept replication studies, they should recommend where authors wishing to replicate studies published in their

journals should publish the replications. Several journals have associated journals which do accept replications (e.g. *AoB Plants* for *Annals of Botany*, *Royal Society Open Science* for *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *Ecology & Evolution* for British Ecological Society journals), and this should be indicated on the website. Journals should also review and update replication-related guidance regularly to ensure that policies remain clear and current.

- **Encourage authors to clearly identify their study as a replication.** This improves discoverability and helps readers and reviewers understand the purpose and contribution of the work.
- **Link replications and original articles.** Explicitly linking original articles with replications (and *vice versa*), for example by adding a link on the original articles webpage in a similar manner to correction notices, would make replications much more visible. It would also increase co-citation of the two papers, and so incentivise the replication attempts (Koole & Lakens, 2012).
- **Introduce a dedicated article type for replications.** Explicit recognition of replication research signals that such work is valued and helps authors identify suitable venues for submission. It also allows for a more concise format than primary papers.
- **Consider offering the Registered Reports format for replication studies.** Registered Reports are a format in which the journal provides in-principle acceptance to a study before the data is collected, and so is agnostic to the results. This incentivises replication studies by providing in-principle acceptance before the replication is done, and reduces publication bias.
- **Consider identifying articles that are deemed a high priority for replication (e.g. by virtue of introducing new or uncertain claims for the first time),** and offering incentives for independent replication (Hüffmeier & Kühner, 2024).
- **Develop transparent and tailored review criteria for replication submissions.** Clear expectations can reduce confusion during peer review and help ensure that replication studies are evaluated according to appropriate standards. These criteria should align with the guidance provided to authors.
- **Avoid overly strong novelty requirements that implicitly discourage replications.** Alongside explicit policy on replication studies, the use of language that emphasizes sound science rather than novel ideas or findings when communicating journal scope or author guidance will help avoid implicitly discouraging replication work.

395 Study limitations

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

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

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

414 This study focused on what journals communicate about their replication policies as an
415 important factor that can influence authors' choice of whether to submit a replication study.
416 We know that authors may draw upon additional information sources to surmise the
417 likelihood that a journal will accept their manuscript, including personal familiarity with a
418 journal or communication with its editorial team (Maggio et al., 2024). Maggio et al. (2024)
419 note this knowledge and access may not be available to junior researchers. Qualitative
420 research on author choice and interpretation of the information on journal websites would be
421 a natural follow up to the present study.

422 This study also assumed that replication policy, as communicated on a journal website, is in
423 some way representative of actual editorial practice and so potential replication study
424 publication rates. As noted by Gasparyan et al. (2014), there can be a disconnect between
425 communicated policy and editorial practice. Websites might be out of date, and individual
426 editors may not be aware of all journal policy. The alignment of communicated policy with
427 journal editorial decisions and editor awareness could be explored through interview or
428 survey based research with members of journal editorial teams. Given the extremely low
429 publication rate of studies labelled as replications in EEB (0.023%; Kelly, 2019), it would

430 currently be challenging to examine the relationship between journal policies, whether
431 implicit or publicized, with the number of replications a journal publishes, but we hope it will
432 be possible in future.

433 Finally, our assessment reflects journal policies at one moment in time. Because journal
434 practices and expectations surrounding replication continue to evolve, especially alongside
435 broader shifts in open science, ongoing monitoring will be essential to capture future
436 changes. For example, since we performed the study, Behavioural Ecology have announced
437 that they are supporting replication studies (Laskowski et al., 2026).

438

439 **Acknowledgements**

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

448

449 **Conflict of interest**

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

452

453 **Data and code availability statement**

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

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462 Data Curation: JLP

463 Formal Analysis: JLP

464 Investigation: all authors

465 Methodology: all authors

466 Project Administration: LC

467 Validation: all authors

468 Visualization: JLP

469 Writing – Original Draft Preparation: LC

470 Writing – Review & Editing: all authors

471

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

Supplementary Material

Leyla Cabugos^{1†}, Joel L. Pick^{2†*}, Marija Purgar^{3†}

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

Journal Name
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

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	

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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	

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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 Of New South Wales	Linnean Soc New South Wales	Ecology		1	1
179	Ecology	Wiley	Ecology		1	1
180	International Journal Of Ecology & Development	Centre Environment Social & 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 Evolution And Systematics	Elsevier Gmbh	Ecology		1	1
185	Journal Of Soil And Water 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

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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

ID	Journal	Publisher	Category	JP	LC	MP
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>] No [<i>Skip to Section 8</i>] 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>] No [<i>Skip to Section 5</i>]
SECTION 3		
13	If mentions replications, do they:	Select one of the following policies on replications:

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

		Not accept (e.g. “submissions that report work that merely confirms previous findings will generally not be considered”) [Skip to Section 8] Policy cannot be determined [Skip to Section 8]
SECTION 6		
17	If journal accepts, but doesn't mention, replication studies, do they:	Choose all that apply: Journal generally accepts replication studies [Skip to Section 8] Journal accepts replication studies as a special article type [Skip to Section 8] 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] Journal accepts replication studies as a special issue [Skip to Section 8] Other [Move to next section]
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?	Yes (e.g the journal prioritizes groundbreaking findings, but does not directly discourage replication submissions) No
20	Text indicating journal preference for novelty	Copy-paste an illustrative example the language that suggests a preference for novelty. Separate different quotes with /.
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).

Supplementary Analyses

In the main article, we modelled journal impact factor as a function of whether there was information on replication and whether novelty language was used. We decided in our pre-registration to not account for the potential non-independence between different publishers.

During peer review, it was suggested that we account for publisher effects, and so here we present a sensitivity analysis, including a random effect of publisher using the lme4 R package (version 1.1-37). We test the statistical significance of the two predictors using likelihood ratio tests, comparing models with both predictors, with models that drop one predictor at a time.

The direction and statistical support for the two effects remain the same, but the coefficients (including the intercept) change (original analysis in main text in Table S4 and sensitivity analysis in Table S5).

Table S4 Main analysis on journal impact factor present in the main manuscript

	Estimate	Std. Error	t	P
Intercept	0.472	0.061	7.725	<0.001
Novelty info (Yes)	0.479	0.104	4.619	<0.001
Replication info found (Yes)	0.386	0.142	2.720	0.007
Residual Variance	0.530	-	-	-

Table S5 Sensitivity analysis of journal impact factor, including random effects of Publisher ID.

	Estimate	Std. Error	Chisq	P
Intercept	0.051	0.097	-	-
Novelty info (Yes)	0.249	0.079	9.780	0.002
Replication info found (Yes)	0.271	0.112	5.835	0.016
Publisher Variance	0.402	-	-	-
Residual Variance	0.249	-	-	-

The change between the two models occurs because the impact factors appear to vary among publishers (Table S5) and number of journals per publisher is variable (between 1 and 51 journals per publisher), and so this second model represents the effects when balanced across publishers. When we look at the distribution of impact factors across publishers, we can see that larger publishers (with more journals in our sample) appear to have higher impact factors (Figure S1). Therefore accounting for publisher reduces the overall impact factor estimated in the model (the intercept), as well as the differences between groups (Table S5).

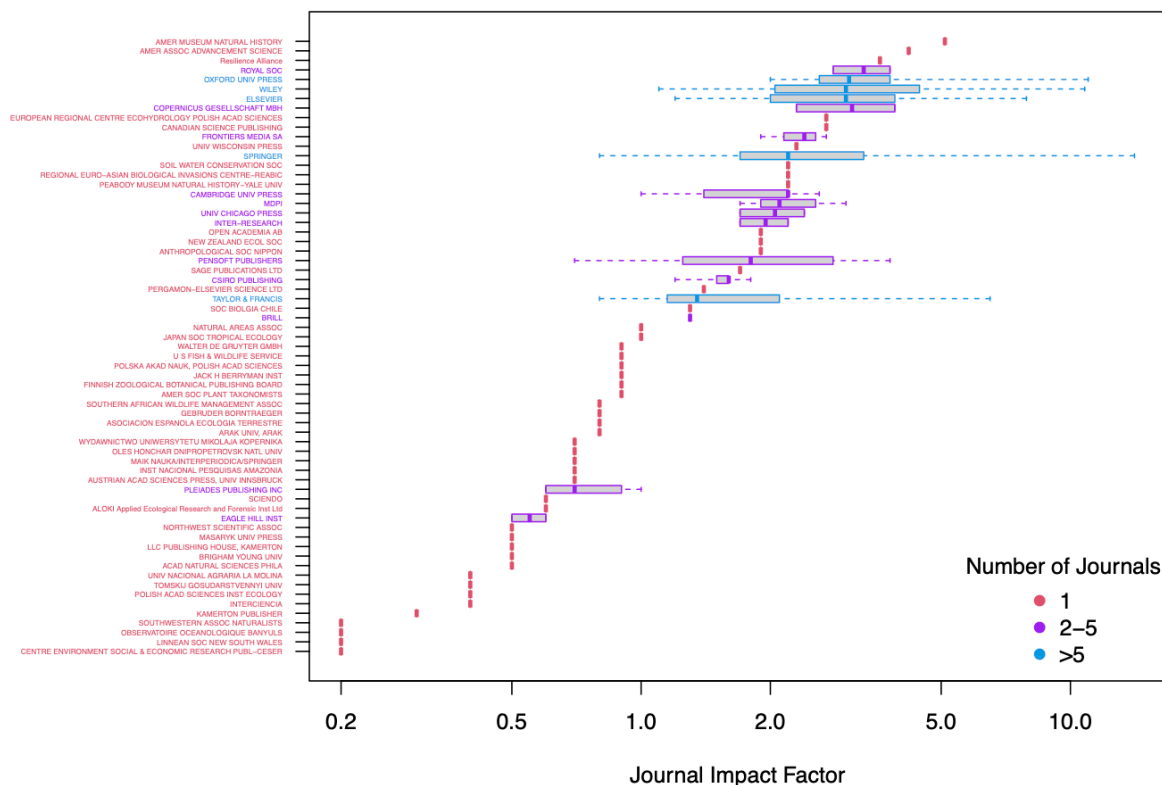


Figure S1 *Journal impact factors across different publishers. Colours represent publishers with different numbers of journals in our sample.*

We can also consider whether replication policy changes across publishers. Again we can see that how large a publisher is (i.e. the number of journals that a publisher has in our sample), appears to be associated with whether replications are mentioned on a journal's website (Figure S2). Whilst this is purely speculation, it may be that larger publishers have more developed websites, with generally more information, and so are more likely to contain information about replication.

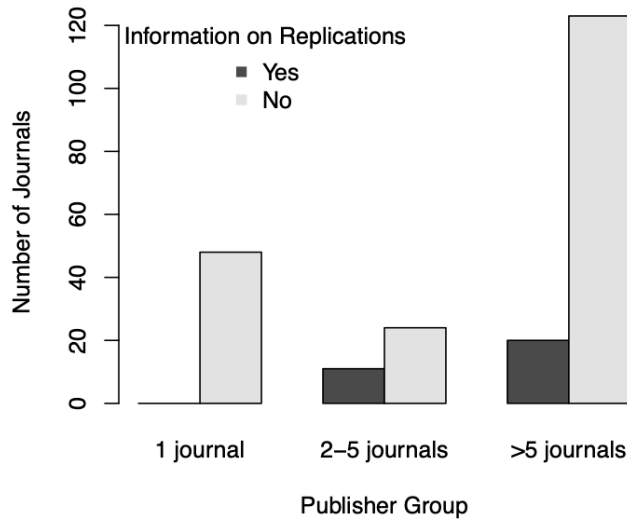


Figure S2 Number of journals with and without information on replication, separated by how many journals the publisher a given journal belonged to had in our sample of journals.

Whilst larger publishers appear to have higher impact factors and appear more likely to have a replication policy, we can see that the difference in journal impact factor between journals mentioning and not mentioning both replication and novelty seem to persist within journals grouped by how many journals their publisher has in the sample (Figure S3).

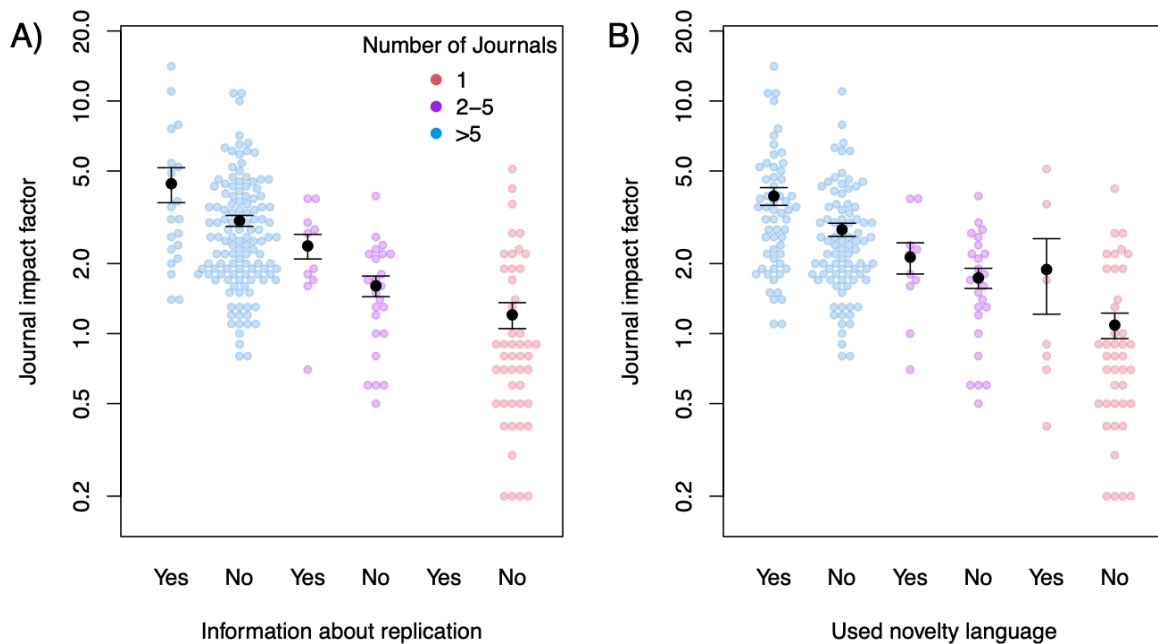


Figure S3 Association between journal impact factor and A) whether journals have information on replication on their websites, or B) whether a journal website used novelty language. Colours represent different groups of publishers based on the number of journals per publisher in our sample. Points show the raw data, and black points the mean $\pm$ SE.