

A photograph of three sheep standing on a grassy hill under a clear blue sky. On the left is a white sheep with small horns. In the center is a dark brown sheep with large, curved horns. On the right is a black sheep, partially obscured and appearing to be lying down. Several small, young evergreen trees are scattered around the sheep.

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Contact and submission

Björn Thorsteinsson at editor@ias.is

Cover Photo: Sheep grazing on establishing
stands of *Larix sibirica* in Iceland
Photographer: Guðríður Baldvinsdóttir

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Editorial

Finishing the IAS 2019 volume no. 32, Prof. Thorsteinn Gudmundsson ended his fortunate 9 year period as the Editor in Chief. For this work, the editors and the editorial board would like to thank him most sincerely and wish him well as Professor Emeritus.

The editors of the journal intend to continue the IAS publication on a similar path as in the recent years. The IAS impact factor is rising slowly and steadily, and the current 5 year ISI impact factor is 1.091. The role of a journal as IAS is increasingly important as a venue for open access scientific publications. Most research is publicly funded and the growing demand for open access for the higher education and the society in general to scientific findings is understandable. Universities and research institutes spend significant amount of money to pay for scientific journal subscriptions to ensure the access of students and employees to current journals and older scientific publications.

Growing number of universities and research institutes from several European countries have agreed that all scientific articles and results of research funded by public or private grants from national, regional and international research councils must be published in open access journals or made immediately available in an open repository. The open access journals such as IAS will play an important role responding to this call.

Publication of articles in IAS is free of charge if they are within certain size limits as the journal is not published for profit. Likewise, authors and reviewers are not paid for their work separately, but generally receive their salaries from public funds. It is therefore a matter of justice and fair play for universities and research institutes in the public service that their scientific publications will increasingly be directed to free of charge open access journals.

In order to operate a journal such as IAS, it must have sponsors or supporting institutions that cover the costs of editing, proofreading, website operation and Crossref service. To our supporting institutions, the individuals in our editorial board and the international panel of scientists acting as reviewers we are most thankful and expect good future cooperation.

As before the major scope of IAS is on broad range of life science topics that are relevant under boreal, alpine, arctic or subarctic conditions, most often but not always on Icelandic subjects. The 2020 volume no. 33 consists of eight articles; On parasites in poultry, fat supplements in dairy cows feed, sheep breeding schemes, peatland restoration, carbon dioxide efflux from geothermally warmed soils, bacterial communities in Tibet plateau soils, long term radial growth of birch and rowan and finally sheep grazing in larch stands.

Björn Thorsteinsson
Editor in Chief

Instructions to authors

(See a complete version on the website www.ias.is)

Icelandic Agricultural Sciences (Icel. Agric. Sci.) is published annually, or more frequently. The journal is in English and is refereed and distributed internationally. It publishes original articles and reviews written by researchers throughout the world on any aspect of applied life sciences that are relevant under boreal, alpine, arctic or subarctic conditions. Relevant subjects include e.g. any kind of environmental research, farming, breeding and diseases of plants and animals, hunting and fisheries, forestry, soil conservation, ecology of managed and natural ecosystems, geothermal ecology, etc.

Authors submitting a paper do so on the understanding that the work has not been published before, is not considered for publication elsewhere and has been read and approved by all authors.

Original research articles must cover new and original research that has not been published before in a medium with peer reviewing and should generally not exceed 12 printed pages, or ca. 5.000 words + tables and figures. **Short communications** focus on studies with more limited coverage than original articles. The maximum length is 4 printed pages, or ca. 2000 words. Short communications do not need an abstract. **Review articles** should generally not exceed 15 printed pages or ca. 7.000 words + tables and figures. **Letters to the Editor** are reserved for comments on articles published in IAS. They should not exceed one printed page or ca. 450 words.

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Authors' names and name(s) and addresses of department(s)/institution(s) to which the work is attributed. Include the e-mail addresses of all authors.

Abstract, English and Icelandic "Yfirlit", should not exceed 150 words each. Non-Icelandic speaking authors will get help from the editor with translation to "Yfirlit".

Keywords in alphabetical order, up to 6 words, preferably not used in the title.

Text should normally be divided into: Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, and References. Use capitals in first headings, use italic in second headings (and title of Icelandic "Yfirlit") and use bold and italic in third headings, if needed.

Introduction should provide a general orientation of the subject and present reasons for and aims of the study. Concisely written. Text references should be written: Smith & Jones (1988) or Hansson et al. (1990). If more than two publications are used references should be cited chronologically (Smith & Jones 1988, Hansson et al. 1990). Do not italicizes et al.

Materials and methods must provide sufficient information to permit exact replication of experimental work or statistical analysis.

Results should be clear, concise, and as objective as possible. No discussion of the results is permitted in this section.

Discussion should not repeat results, but in a logical way interpret the main results with reference to relevant figures, tables and references. The Discussion should be concisely written and as brief as possible. A separate chapter of Conclusions may be used.

Abbreviations, numerical symbols and style.

1. Use only international standard abbreviations, according to the guidelines from Caltech Library Service (<http://library.caltech.edu/reference/abbreviations/>).

2. In decimals, use the decimal point, not the comma (use comma in Icelandic "Yfirlit").

3. When presenting units, do not use slash (t/ha year), use negative exponents ($\text{t DM ha}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$). DM = dry mass.

4. When presenting concentrations, quantitative units (e.g. mg N g^{-1} DM) are preferred to relative units (e.g. % N).

5. Use no Roman numerals.

6. Foreign words, Latin names of genera, species, mathematical symbols, etc. should be italicized. Personal names after Latin names should not be italicized.

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Illustrations/Figures. All illustrative material must be of publication quality. All graphs, drawings and photographs are considered figures and should be kept to a minimum, numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. Use only solid or open symbols, and avoid the use of light lines or fine screen shading. Distinguish areas within a diagram with solid white or black fill, hatching, or cross-hatching. Figures should be designed to fit one (6.6 cm), one and a half (10.3 cm), or two (13.8 cm) column widths, with a maximum height of 19.6 cm. Figures should be submitted at the size they are to appear in the journal. When reproduced at final size, lettering on figures (capitals and numerals) must be of Arial font and 11 point size. Excel format of graphs are preferred. If figures are made in other programs care must be taken to follow the above instructions in every detail. Figures should be delivered in black and white and will be printed in black and white, but colour printing is possible at the cost of author.

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Editor-in-Chief
Björn Thorsteinsson
Agricultural University of Iceland
Hvanneyri, 311 Borgarnes, Iceland