Artwork cheat sheet

Acarologia
Open Science in Acarology

Preparing line drawings, graphics and photos for publication in Acarologia

Preamble

Authors must pay attention to the quality of their art work. Taxonomical illustrations are of first importance and low or mid quality figures are not acceptable in regard of actual tools available to provide high quality. Quality is a shared concern, not only the publisher's one.

DPI, size and resolution

DPI: dots per inch. The number of dots in a printed inch. The more dots the higher quality of the print. 300 dpi is standard for pictures. 600 dpi is the minimum for graphics and line drawings.

Size: the final dimension of the figure, expressed in cm. Acarologia's figures are generally 13 cm large (text width) or 18 cm large (page width).

Resolution: the measure of pixels (px) in the display, usually expressed in measurements of width x height.

Preparing pictures

Photos are saved with the appropriate resolution in jpg or png. Never increase the size of a picture.

File formats

SVG. A vector image format, suitable for graphics and line drawings only. The resolution is chosen by us when exporting. Authors using this format do not have to take into account the file size specifications.

PDF. Suitable and accepted for direct vector images (from R, Inkscape, Illustrator...). However we prefer svg.

TIFF (lossless compression LZW). An image format suitable for graphics and line drawings.

JPEG. A destructive compressed image format suitable for photos (choose 90% quality).

PNG. A compressed image format, prefered for graphics (from R, Inkscape...). Less destructive than jpeg, suitable for photos (choose 8 or 9 for compression level, but producing large files). We can also accept graphics in png format (with sufficient resolution and directly generated by your statistical software).

PPT(X) & ODP. Powerpoint and open document graphics are accepted for graphics

Preparing line drawings

Line drawings are better from direct electronic material like SVG (Sidorchuk & Vorontsov, 2014. Acarologia, 54(2): 229-239. Scanning manual drawings require at least a 600 dpi native resolution in tiff format. **Files must always be saved, at this stage or any other using tiff format**. Files passed through jpg or other destructive format will systematicaly be rejected.

Thereafter files could be cleaned-up using GIMP, Photoshop ... or better vectorised and treated with Inkscape or Illustrator to produce vector images.

Which size & resolution for the files?

Photos 13 cm = 1535 pixels width.

Photos 18 cm = 2126 pixels width.

Graphics/drawings 13 cm = 3071 px width.

Graphics/drawings 18 cm = 4252 px width.

Please never increase the size of a file to fit the standard. We can do it ourselve with generally a better result.

Resolution can be easly checked in the properties of the file.