
**Format of comments**
Please try to deal with this in the electronic format (e.g. Word’s *track changes* and *comments* tools). We prefer Word (i.e. .doc or .docx) files, but .rtf files are acceptable. **Please do not send .pdf files.**

All comments should be returned by the due date to eandlthom@gmail.com. Please include a short report stating whether the paper is:

1. Acceptable for publication with minor revision
2. Acceptable for publication but requires major revision
3. Not acceptable for publication.
Give clear reasons for 2 and 3.

**Information content**
Does the paper describe new work, new results, or new interpretation or valuable confirmation of previous work?

**Methods**
Are the methods and the controls used adequate? Replicated, designed experiments are expected for scientific manuscripts. Farmer papers or invited papers may provide commentary rather than scientific results.

**Experimental materials and data collection**
Are the processes used for data collection described adequately and collected over a sufficient time period (usually two years minimum for field studies) to be robust.

**Calculations and statistics**
Are there any errors? Is the statistical analysis adequate? If you have concerns about aspects of the statistical analysis or feel uncomfortable assessing this aspect please convey this to the editor. A professional biometrician is available to assist the association if necessary.

**Interpretation**
Are the discussion points and conclusions justified? Is interpretation adequate, not warranted by the data, or are there important omissions or loose generalisations?

**Discussion**
Is the discussion well thought out, and in line with results presented? Does the discussion reference the relevant information available on this topic, or other there other references that should be included?

**Presentation and style**

*Title*
Does it convey the main subject or message, as briefly as possible?

*Abstract*
Does it state the purpose of the paper and the investigation on which it is based, indicate methods used, and quantify the results? The abstract should be no more than 150 words.

*Illustrations and tables*
Are they all necessary? Could information in the text be presented in a table or figure, and vice versa? Are they clear?

References
Cross check that all references are listed. Are they all needed, or are any significant ones omitted?

General
Is the information presented in a logical sequence? Is the paper too brief for clarity, too long for the results, or adequate? (Authors are asked to aim for 2500 word equivalents, but there is flexibility here, depending on the material.) Is irrelevant material included, e.g., results that are not referred to or discussed. Would rearrangement improve the paper?