ABOUT THIS JOURNAL

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*Scripta Philosophiae Naturalis* is an electronic journal devoted to the philosophy of nature. It is biannual and multilingual (French, Spanish, and English). The philosophy of nature is a mine of ideas far from exhaustion: it shelters a latent richness in need of display and development — this is the task we would like propose to our authors and readers. Now in order to give an approximate idea of the scope of this journal, the following problems can be mentioned:

What is nature?

Resemblances and differences among the natural philosophies through history: Ancient Greek philosophy, Middle Ages, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, 19th century’s Naturphilosophie, contemporary philosophy of nature.

The problem of the relationship between modern science, natural philosophy and metaphysics.

Does nature possess in itself the properties contributing to its intelligibility, or are the essentials of knowledge a contribution of the subject’s cognitive apparatus?
Is there a substantial reality, knowable through intuition and the generative power of our formalisms, or is the world nothing but appearance?

The relationship between the structure of explanation and the structure of the world.

What does it mean to explain something, and why is it, if it is so, that explanations require a collaboration between science, natural philosophy and metaphysics?

How to understand the links between the description, the explanation and the understanding of a thing or phenomenon?

What is the value of common sense concerning the knowledge and understanding of nature?

How to understand the complementarity between intuition and reasoning, and the complementarity between inductive and deductive procedures in the knowledge and understanding of nature?

What is the essence of the power of symbols as means of knowledge and understanding of nature?

How are we to understand the relationship between natural or ordinary language and the sensible world?

The problem of the relationship between mathematics and the sensible world.

Why should we think that mathematics, at first sight so different from the sensible world, can explain things and phenomena?

Scientific theories, and mathematics in particular, are a series of abstractions: what criteria can we use in order to distinguish legitimate abstractions from those which distort reality?

Is nature causally determined, and if we think so, how are we to account for our intuition of freedom?

What is a cause, causality, and determinism?

What is spontaneity and what is freedom?

How are we to conceive, in the present state of affairs, the relationship between primary and secondary qualities?

What are matter, energy, space and time, and in particular, what are their relationships with human nature?

What criteria can be used to order systems in a natural hierarchy (scale including, *grosso modo*, the inorganic, the vegetative, the animal, the symbolic,
the human and the social), and how are we to explain, causally, the emergence of different strata and systems?

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Contributions should be submitted to the following Internet address:
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Articles should not exceed 10000 words and must be preceded by an abstract (100 words maximum), and a short list of keywords.

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