BIO 3A: Format for Figures and Captions

1. Figure captions will be numbered, in order, starting with the number “1.”
2. The figure caption should be a 2 point sizes smaller than the regular text of the paper. For instance, if you are using 12 point text in the paper, then the figure caption text should be 10 point.
3. The word “Figure” and the number (a number, not letter) should be in **BOLD**. The word “Figure” should be capitalized.
4. A period should follow the number.
5. The caption should be a title for the figure, NOT a sentence or a statement of what the figure means.
6. The caption should include relevant statistical data such as number of subjects, mean, standard error, and p-values if a statistical test was done.
7. The entire caption should be left justified and its width should be approximately equal to the figure width.
8. The graph should have no background color.
9. Bars should be filled with a pattern through which the error bars can be seen.
10. Axes must be labeled with units stated when appropriate.
11. There should be no border around the figure.

Here is an example:

![Figure 1](image_url)

**Figure 1.** Mean combined lengths of male and females fifth fingers. Average of combined male fifth finger length was 14.1cm ± 2.0cm (± se), N = 45. Average of combined female fifth finger length was 11.7cm ± 1.4cm (± se), N = 52. Male mean is significantly greater than female mean (p = 0.023, one-tailed t-test). Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.