

Publication Ethics Policy

International Journal of Applied and Experimental Biology is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics and integrity. This Publication Ethics Policy outlines the guidelines and principles that authors, reviewers, editors, and the journal itself must adhere to maintain the integrity, credibility, and fairness of data presentation and overall publication process. All parties involved in the publication process are believed to uphold these ethical standards. International Journal of Applied and Experimental Biology abides by the Code of Conduct of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and is firmly committed to adhere to its Best Practice Guidelines.

1. Authorship and Author Responsibilities

1.1. Authorship should be based on substantial contributions to the research work and the preparation of the manuscript. All authors must have made significant intellectual contributions to the investigation/study.

1.2. All listed authors must have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript and agree to its submission for publication.

1.3. The corresponding author is responsible for ensuring that all co-authors are appropriately credited, and if there are any conflicts of interest, they must be disclosed.

1.4. Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must be reflected, and all sources of funding or support should be properly revealed.

1.5. Citation Manipulation: Submitted manuscripts that include citations primarily intended to artificially increase the number of citations to a specific author's work or articles published in a particular journal will face sanctions for citation manipulation.

1.6. Data Fabrication and Falsification: Manuscripts that are found to contain fabricated or falsified experimental results, including image manipulation, will be subject to sanctions for data fabrication and falsification.

2. Plagiarism and Originality

2.1. Authors must ensure that the work presented in their manuscript is original and has not been published previously, in whole or in part.

2.2. The journal uses the *Turnitin* software to detect similarity index and it must be less than 15% in submitted manuscripts.

2.3. Any sources used in the preparation of the manuscript must be appropriately cited and credited.

2.4. Plagiarism in any form, including the use of verbatim copying, paraphrasing, or self-plagiarism, is strictly prohibited.

3. Conflict of Interest

3.1. Authors, reviewers, and editors must disclose any potential conflict of interest that may influence their objectivity or be perceived as influencing their objectivity.

3.2. Conflicts of interest may include financial, personal, or professional relationships that could influence the interpretation or judgment of the work.

4. Human and Animal Rights

4.1. For a study that reports experimentation involving humans, an explicit statement of compliance must be included to exhibit that procedures/protocols were pursued strictly following the ethical standards of the designated institutional/national committee on human experimentation.

4.2. For an investigation that involves experimentation on animals, authors must submit a formal permission issued by the institutional/national ethics committee or Institutional Review Board (IRB).

4.3. If a study involves clinical trials, they must have been recorded/registered in clinical trial registries, strictly following the indigenous and international standards.

5. Review Process

5.1. Peer review is an essential part of the publication process and ensures the quality and validity of the research.

5.2. Reviewers must provide timely, constructive, and unbiased feedback on the manuscript.

5.3. Reviewers should disclose any conflicts of interest and should not review manuscripts in which they have a significant personal or professional association.

6. Editorial Decisions

6.1. Editors have the responsibility to evaluate manuscripts based on their intellectual content, regardless of the authors' race, gender, religious beliefs, or nationality.

6.2. Editors should ensure the confidentiality of the review process and not disclose any information about the manuscript or its review to unauthorized individuals.

6.3. The decision to accept, reject, or request for revision of a manuscript should be based on the manuscript's scientific merit, significance, originality, and relevance to the journal's scope.

7. Corrections, Retractions, and Errata

7.1. If errors or inaccuracies are identified in a published paper, authors are obligated to promptly notify the journal's editor and cooperate in issuing corrections, retractions, or errata, as appropriate.

7.2. Corrections, retractions, or errata will be issued in a timely manner to rectify any significant errors or misleading information published in the journal.

8. Sanctions

8.1. In the event of documented violations of any of the aforementioned policies, the following sanctions will be applied:

- a. The infringing manuscript will be immediately rejected.
- b. All authors of the infringing manuscript will be prohibited from making any new submissions to the journal, either individually or in collaboration with other authors, for a minimum of 36 months.

9. Complaints and Appeals

9.1. The journal encourages the reporting of ethical concerns or complaints related to published papers. These concerns should be submitted to the chief editor, who will handle them in accordance with the journal's established procedures as well as the guidelines of COPE.

9.2. Appeals regarding editorial decisions should be submitted in writing to the chief editor, who will address them in an impartial and fair manner.

9.3. An appeal against rejection/decline of a manuscript will be dealt with by the chief editor/handling editor and they will take any of the following decisions based on the arguments of author(s):

- a. To uphold the decision of rejection
- b. If the author(s) arguments seem to be logical, an independent opinion can be sought from a reviewer other than those who have already done the peer review, and if a positive report is received from neutral reviewer the appeal can be contemplated and another round of peer-review from different reviewers can be obtained; so, the final decision of rejection/acceptance lies with the chief editor and the complainant is informed of the decision accordingly. Decisions on appeals are considered final, and new submissions take precedence/priority over appeals.
- c. Complaint about inordinate delay in manuscript processing
The chief editor will critically examine, and investigate the matter if it is of substance; the complainant will be informed accordingly.

- d. Complaint about author's or reviewer's misconduct: The chief editor will thoroughly investigate the matter and the complainant will be informed accordingly of the decision made by the journal management.

10. Disclosure of Funding Sources

If applicable, full detail of funding sources must be reflected in the **Funding Section** within the manuscript, mentioning grant number, etc.

11. Signing of Agreement Form

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The International Journal of Applied and Experimental Biology is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of publication ethics. Any violation of this Publication Ethics Policy will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken, including but not limited to issuing corrections, retractions, or banning authors from future submissions.