

**Code of Ethics to Check Malpractice and Plagiarism in Research**

*(Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement)*

To publish quality research papers, the integrity of the content published is an essential element and should be ensured during the review and the edition processes when publishing papers. To that purpose, authors are expected to fully adhere to the policy regarding publication ethics and malpractice, and respect the following statements:

1. **Reporting standards (Content)**

   Papers must be original and adhere to a highly scientific (content) and technical (language, artwork, etc.) standard. Authors of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed and the results, followed by an objective discussion of the significance of the work. The manuscript should contain sufficient details and references to permit others to replicate the work. Review articles should be accurate, objective and comprehensive, while editorial ‘opinion’ or perspective pieces should be clearly identified as such. Fraudulent or intended inaccurate statements constitute unethical behaviour and are unacceptable.

2. **Data access and retention (Material Studied)**

   Before collecting the new material for the purpose of study, the authors must ensure that all necessary permits are obtained. The authors are required to deposit all types of materials in a public natural history collection. Authors may be asked to provide the raw data of their study along with the manuscript for editorial review and should be prepared to make the data available to the public if possible. In any event, authors should ensure accessibility of such data to other competent professionals for at least 10 years after publication (preferably via an institutional or subject-based data repository or other data centre), provided the confidentiality of the participants can be protected and legal rights concerning proprietary data do not preclude their release.

3. **Originality and plagiarism**

   Authors should ensure that they have written and submitted only their original works, and if they have used the work and/or words of others, that should be appropriately cited. Publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the work reported in the manuscript should also be cited. Plagiarism takes many forms, from "passing off" another's paper as the author's own, to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another's paper (without attribution), to
claiming results from research conducted by others. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.

Self-plagiarism (also known as text recycling) should be avoided as much as possible; however, when text duplication from previous works is necessary, it is then reported transparently and these previous works are fully cited in the publication itself.

Whenever possible, data and results gathered in the same framework (e.g. a single research project) should not be broken up into smaller publishable units. This behaviour must be strictly avoided when the data and results share common hypotheses, methods and material.

4. **Research misconduct**

Invention of data and malicious manipulation of data (or of data images) are clearly unacceptable. Authors are expected to keep accurate records of the data and to have a proactive and ethical attitude on data management (data availability, quality checks). Data omission or intentional manipulation of parts of the data set to fit the desired study’s hypotheses will be considered as fraud.