

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement requirements:

December 2020

The ethical principles and guidelines of this journal are based on the principles of the “Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)” and the “Charter of Research Ethics and Standards” approved by the Deputy for Research and Technology, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran. Authors, reviewers, the editorial office, the editorial board, and the editor-in-chief are obliged to observe and follow the journal’s Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics Guidelines, when working with this publication.

1. Editorial Board

- The assignment of reviewers and the acceptance or rejection of a submitted manuscript after the reviewers' comments have been received, are the responsibility of the editor-in-chief and the editorial team.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board must be professional experts in their respective fields and have written numerous published articles. They are expected to be responsible, approachable, conscientious, fair, impartial, conscientious, considerate, and respectful of the rights of others. The editor-in-chief and the editorial staff must also dutifully contribute to the achievement of the goals of “*Plant Pathology Science*” and its further development.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board are expected to create a database of qualified reviewers and update it regularly according to their performance.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board must endeavor to select competent reviewers based on their area of expertise, outstanding position, professional experience and integrity. They are also expected to comply with the authors' reasonable, well-founded requests that their manuscript not be reviewed by a particular reviewer.
- The editor-in-chief must encourage thorough, well-grounded assessments, prevent superficial, hasty reviews, and confront reviewers with biased, unfounded, or derisive comments.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board must take the necessary steps to record and archive the reviewers' reports as academic records and keep the names of the assigned reviewers confidential.
- Decisions on whether to accept or reject submitted manuscripts must be made based on the assessment of the reviewers' expert comments, their validation, confirmatory textual evidence, and adequate justification. No personal, institutional, racial and / or religious bias should influence the decision.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board are obliged to immediately inform the relevant author of their final decision on a submitted manuscript.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial team must treat the content of the submitted manuscripts confidentially and avoid sharing or discussing them with others.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial team may not use the data or new findings of an assigned manuscript for or against their or third-party studies and may discredit or criticize other researchers before the assigned manuscript is published. In addition, the editor-in-chief and the editorial staff have no authority to disclose details other than those published by the journal after the manuscript was published. The only exception, however, which depends on plausible evidence,

would be reviewing articles for potentially unethical practices in research and publication by authors.

- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board are obliged to avoid conflicts of interest in the review process due to personal, commercial, academic or financial relationships that could potentially affect the acceptance and publication of the submitted manuscripts.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board must encourage reviewers to carefully review the submitted manuscripts for originality and the presence / absence of unethical practices in research and publication.
- The editor-in-chief must carefully study the manuscript of the author alleged to have violated research and publication ethics and take appropriate action in accordance with the steps outlined in the “Procedures for Handling Unethical Research and Publishing Practices” section.
- The editor-in-chief must not stop taking legal action against proven culprits after the manuscript has been rejected, and is obliged to persevere while giving the accused authors a reasonable opportunity to explain their behaviour.
- The editor-in-chief is obliged to promptly remove any published articles that are found to contain unethical practices in research and publication and to fully inform readers and the databases involved of the incident.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board are obliged to immediately review and publish revisions and to notify readers of the occurrence of misconduct in published articles.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board are expected to encourage and publish valid and informed criticism of published articles.
- The editor-in-chief and the editorial board must consistently seek the views of authors, readers, and reviewers on action plans that are conducive to the development of the journal's publication guidelines and their formal and thematic quality.

2. Authors and Authors responsibilities

- As stated on the journal's website, the articles must be Research, Review or Extensional and must not duplicate the content of previously published articles or articles considered or accepted for publication elsewhere. Authors are forbidden to publish the same research in more than one journal.
- The content of the submitted Articles must match the scope of the journal and should be conducted and organized systematically and coherently according to the guidelines of the journal (<http://yujs.yu.ac.ir/pps/page/21/Submission-Instruction>).
- Authors are reminded that the data must be the work of the submitting authors, i.e. all authors must have significantly contributed to the research. All authors are obliged to provide retractions and corrections of mistakes.
- The authors are responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the content of their manuscripts. The authors need to check the validity and precision of their research. Publication of a manuscript does not mean that “*Plant Pathology Science*” endorses or affirms its contents.
- Authors are committed to avoiding research and publication misconduct.
- Upon submission, authors are reminded that the data included in the report must not be submitted or published elsewhere. If this is not the case, then it is the authors' duty to declare this to the editor-in-chief immediately.

- Authors are not allowed to attempt an overlapping publication, that is, to publish the data or results of their previously published articles with minor changes as a new article.
- Authors must carefully cite all sources they use and, if necessary, obtain written permission from the authors cited. When using another scholar's verbatim quote, it should be placed in double quotation marks ("").
- The corresponding author should ensure that the name and contact information of all authors who have contributed to the manuscript are included. Gift authorship and ghost authorship are not permitted in this journal.
- The corresponding author must ensure that all contributors read the manuscript and agree on their role in conducting their research study. The corresponding author must also ensure that all co-authors submit the manuscript unanimously.
- The submission presupposes that the authors have acknowledged their funding and grant agencies and have obtained their prior permission.
- Authors must notify the journal if they discover an error in their manuscript and therefore take the necessary steps to correct the error or withdraw the manuscript altogether.
- The authors are expected to keep the samples and raw data used in their study for at least a year in order to be able to answer possible questions and criticisms of the readers.
- Any danger to humans or the environment that may arise from the conducted research must be expressly noted in the manuscript.
- Authors are required to provide relevant references in their reports including details of the techniques used for identification and any previous reports of the plant disease in the locality. Authors must also provide details of financial support in the acknowledgements of the report.
- The authors are required to participate in the peer review process. Once the article have been reviewed by reviewers and related member of editorial board, the authors have two months to complete the revisions and return the report to the editor-in-chief.

3. Peer-review process

The submission of manuscripts by authors, review and evaluation by reviewers, and the final decision of the editorial board and the editor-in-chief require full compliance with these rights and guidelines. In the event that the above parties violate the principles, the journal is entitled to take appropriate legal action. The Charter of Research Ethics and Standards approved by the Deputy for Research and Technology must be consulted by authors, reviewers, and the editorial board of "*Plant Pathology Science*".

The "*Plant Pathology Science*" editorial team consists of the editor-in-chief and the editorial board members for each of the disciplines within scope of the journal (Mycology, Bacteriology, Nematology, Virology, Nutritional deficiencies, Environmental stresses, Flowering parasitic plants, and Plants Diseases Management Methods). Each member of the editorial board is recognized expert in the field and their names and affiliations are provided on the journal's website (<http://yujs.yu.ac.ir/pps/page/13/Editorial-Board>). Contact information for the editor-in-chief of "*Plant Pathology Science*" and contact information for the publisher (Yasouj University) is provided on the journal's website (<http://yujs.yu.ac.ir/pps/page/29/Contact-Information>).

- The editorial office is responsible for editing, layout, typography, and finally the publication of accepted manuscripts in print or digital format. The editorial office is expected to set and announce the journal's publishing guidelines, particularly those relating to editorial independent decision-making, publishing ethics, intellectual property and copyright protection, conflicts of interest, the responsibilities of authors, reviewers and editors in chief and editorial board, review process, complaints and re-examination requests, archiving of documents related to the editorial decision-making process, information from authors and reviewers, revision or removal of accepted manuscripts, and dispute resolution between plaintiffs and defendants over allegations of unethical practices in research and publication.
- The editorial office must endeavour to complete the editing, layout and publication process with the greatest care and in the shortest possible time.
- The editorial office is expected to protect and retain the confidential authors' personal information as well as the content of the manuscripts submitted during and after the peer review process, and to prevent any information other than that published by the journal from being released upon acceptance of a particular manuscript be passed on. The only exception, however, which depends on plausible evidence, would be reviewing articles for potentially unethical practices in research and publication by authors.
- The editorial office must maintain the independence of the editor-in-chief and the editorial board.
- The editorial office must provide the editor-in-chief, the editorial board and the reviewers with comprehensive guidelines and instructions to support them in the proper performance of their tasks.
- The editorial office must provide authors with appropriate instructions on how to improve the formal and thematic quality of manuscripts and carefully observe ethical guidelines for research and publication.
- The editorial office is expected to work with the editor-in-chief to ensure thorough compliance with the highest ethical standards in research and publication, and to safeguard against formal and thematic errors.
- The editorial office is expected to work with the editor-in-chief to investigate allegations of unethical practices in research and publication and to provide expert advice to plaintiffs and defendants as necessary.
- The editorial office is expected to consider requests for permission to use the content of articles published by "*Plant Pathology Science*" in other publications, with full disclosure.
- The reviewers should work together with the editor-in-chief and the editorial team on the qualitative, thematic and scientific evaluation of the submitted manuscripts and thus contribute to improving their overall quality and content.
- When reading the abstract, the assigned reviewer must immediately inform the editor-in-chief of his decision as to whether he will accept the examination assignment. If the reviewer declines (due to the unavailability or irrelevance of the topic for his / her subject area), he is expected to help the editor-in-chief to select another reviewer.
- Reviewers must be qualified experts and specialists in the same subject area as the assigned manuscripts. Reviewers must not agree to review manuscripts that do not correspond to their subject area. It is also recommended that reviewers refuse to review manuscripts the subject matter of which they fundamentally disagree with

as this would prevent them from making an unbiased assessment of such manuscripts.

- Reviewers must not agree to review manuscripts that are intended to promote the interests of certain individuals, institutions, and companies, or contain personal relationships.
- Reviewers are not allowed to review manuscripts that have collaborated in behaviour, data analysis, or composition.
- If a review assignment is accepted, reviewers must prepare their expert opinions and review comments in simple terms, which are advised to be accompanied by textual evidence, and then submit them to the editor-in-chief and authors before the set deadline. It is also the responsibility of the reviewer to carefully examine references, tables, figures and notes.
- Peer review must be based on scientific knowledge and adequate justification. Personal, institutional, racist and / or religious comments should be avoided when evaluating a manuscript.
- The reviewers are expected to present to the editor-in-chief together with the authors their assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the assigned manuscript in a constructive, clear and instructive manner, accompanied by sufficient analysis and revision suggestions.
- Reviewers are expected to be responsible, approachable, punctual, conscientious, astute, ethical, and principled. Reference to authentic sources, fairness, courtesy, impartiality, avoidance of premature judgments or hasty conclusions, and a consistent expression of opinion as to the suitability of the assigned manuscript for publication in "*Plant Pathology Science*" are also expected characteristics and established obligations of the reviewers.
- If the assigned manuscript is theoretically solid and clear in expression, the reviewer is expected not to rewrite or revise it based on personal preferences and priorities. It must be noted that the journal draws on the reviewers' expertise rather than their editing and proofreading services.
- The reviewers must check that all sources and citations used in the assigned manuscript are given in full. In addition, reviewers are expected to mention studies related to the author (s) that are not cited in the manuscript.
- Reviewers must keep the contents of the assigned manuscripts confidential and avoid sharing or discussing them with others.
- Reviewers may not use the data or new knowledge of an assigned manuscript for or against their or the studies of others and discredit or criticize other researchers prior to the publication of the assigned manuscript. In addition, reviewers are not authorized to disclose details other than those published by the journal after the manuscript was published.
- Without the permission of the editor-in-chief, reviewers are not authorized to assign the task of reviewing manuscripts to another person (s) such as colleagues or doctoral students. The name of someone who worked on the assignment must be recorded in the journal's archives as well as in the review report submitted to the editor-in-chief.
- Reviewers are not allowed to contact the authors of the assigned manuscripts directly. Contact may only be made through the journal's office.
- It is expected that the reviewers will endeavor to provide the editor-in-chief with their reports of unethical practices in research and publication, along with corroborating evidence, with due diligence and consideration.

4. Publication ethics

Disclosure of any of the following practices during the process of submission, review, revision, or the publication of a manuscript amounts to unethical research and publication practices and entitles the journal to take legal action against the wrongdoer(s).

- **Fabrication:** The deliberate misrepresentation of research results by producing data and passing it on as laboratory results of empirical studies and / or personal results. False recording of unreal events and implementing the results of previous studies are examples of fabrication.
- **Falsification:** Misrepresenting research results by manipulating the details of their behavior or the process of data collection. Falsification also encompasses the omission or modification of data, or exaggerating minor results (juicy quotes) in order to hide the truth and exclude possible potentials that could jeopardize the results presented and thus divert the study to personal interests.
- **Plagiarism:** Duplicating the ideas and observations of other scientists, copying the viewpoints of others, structural similarities in composition and / or unconfirmed appropriation of the ideas and results of others by presenting them as your own original research.
- **Ghost authorship:** Occurs when authors employ another person to conduct research and then publish the study as their own original work with minor changes.
- **Fabricated Affiliations:** A false claim of affiliation with an academic or research institution that was not involved in conducting the study.
- Re-submission of an article, overlapping publication, “gift authorship”, or omitting the name of the real author are also among unethical practices in research and publication.
- **The procedure for dealing with unethical research and publication practices:**
 - The editorial office receives a written allegation from a natural / legal person.
 - The editorial board is holding a meeting with the Yasouj University Publication Center representative to conduct a preliminary investigation into the allegation.
 - The editorial board collects and evaluates the available evidence and writes down the minutes of the meeting, which contain the decision on the legality and credibility of the allegation.
 - The editorial board sends the written allegation to the accused authors and asks for an answer within the set deadline.
 - The editorial board will review the accused authors' response at a board meeting held in the presence of the Yasouj University Publication Center representative to make a final decision.
 - The editorial board sends its final decision, accompanied by suggested punitive measures (should the allegation be sustained), to the plaintiff and the defendant.
 - The editors inform the highest-ranking authority of the offender's affiliated institution.

5. Copyright and Access

Copyright to all published materials is owned by Yasouj University. All authors should agree to the copyright transfer during the submission process. Authors of the published articles in this journal retain the copyright of their articles and will be able to archive pre-print, post-print, and publisher's versions.

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6. Archiving

Full text of *Plant Pathology Science* has been archived in the Yasouj University Library (<http://lib.yu.ac.ir/>) and the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) (<https://ecc.isc.ac/showJournal/25412>) from the first volume, 2012.

7. Ownership and management

This journal is owned by the publisher, Yasouj University (<http://www.yu.ac.ir/index.aspx?siteid=30>)

8. Web site

The URL of official journal web site is <http://yujs.yu.ac.ir/pps/en>

9. Publishing schedule

Plant Pathology Science (Plant Pathol. Sci.) is published two times a year (March and September).

10. Name of journal

The official title of the journal is *Plant Pathology Science* and the abbreviation for ISO is *Plant Pathol. Sci.*. Before launching *Plant Pathol. Sci.*, thorough checks were carried out to ensure that no journal with a similar name already exists.