

Journal of Natural Products Discovery

The journal of the Centre for Natural Products Discovery at LJMU

A LJMU open access journal

AUTHOR'S GUIDELINES

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AIMS AND SCOPE

JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS DISCOVERY (JNPD) is devoted to the publication of original articles. The Journal publishes papers describing significant novelty in the analysis, isolation of metabolites, biological and pharmacological properties of natural products (including whole plants, marine organisms, terrestrial animals, fungi, bacteria and viruses, their cells, tissues and organs. The derived extracts and isolates should have characteristics or activities relevant for either basic biological sciences (botany, ecology, biochemistry, pharmacology, etc.) or use in the food, agrochemical, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and related industries. All forms of physical, chemical, biochemical, spectroscopic, radiometric, electrometric, chromatographic, metabolomic and chemometric investigations of plant products are also within the scope of the journal. Papers dealing with novel methods relating to areas such as data handling / data mining in plant sciences will also be welcomed.

JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS DISCOVERY (JNPD) aims to :

1. Conduct natural products research that is interdisciplinary, translational and delivers a positive impact for scientific advancement, global healthcare, socio-economic prosperity, conservation and environmental sustainability and policy making.

2. Serve as a global player for dissemination of natural products research in the following aspects: scholarship, training, knowledge exchange/transfer, collaboration, consultancy, commercialisation, and capacity, skills and career development.
3. Provide strategic intellectual and technical leadership, globally, on existing and emerging issues.
4. Be involved in social engagement, policy discourse and public advocacy on natural products.

We will welcome the following types of contributions:

- Original articles
- Review articles describing recent advances in specific areas of plant analysis
- Mini-reviews (strictly no more than five pages) covering particular hot topics
- Short communications

If you wish to advertise/share suitable professional events on Natural Products (Seminars, congresses, meetings) please let us know and if the editorial board finds within our focus, we will tweet it to our followers.

LEGAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS

Originality

Submissions to Journal of Natural Products Discovery must comply with the following general conditions:

1. The content of the submission has not been published previously, in any language, in whole or in part.(*)

(*) Exceptions:

- Its content has been published previously, in any language, in whole or in part as an abstract in the proceedings of one or more scientific meetings or symposiums. The full reference(s) to this communication(s) must be provided on submission in the Comments for the Editor section
- The contents were previously self-archived in a public repository, in any language, in whole or in part. The full reference(s) to this communication(s) must be provided on submission in the Comments for the Editor section

2. The manuscript is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere, in any language, in whole or in part.

Ethical aspects

Authors must ensure that:

1. All the contents of the submission comply with local, national and international ethical guidelines (such as the Vancouver Convention, Vancouver guidelines, and Helsinki Declaration) particularly the sourcing of the materials, images, figures and experimental methods. All in vivo experiments and clinical data must provide proof (reference and/or scan of official document/s) of the approval from the institutional ethical committee of the institution where they were performed.

2. Discussion and conclusions must show respect and equitable treatment when commenting on other works/authors. Any kind of discrimination, victimisation and harassment will result in the immediate rejection of the submission.
3. **THE CORRESPONDENT AUTHOR(S) WILL ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTENTS OF THE FINAL PUBLICATION.**

Identification of and attribution to the authors

1. The correspondent author(s) must use an ORCID iD (a unique author identifier) to help distinguish their work from that of other researchers. If you do not have one you must register [here](#).
2. We recommend that ALL authors are also identified by an ORCID iD.
3. We may not accept other correspondence emails than institutional or corporate. Please refrain from using Gmail, Outlook, Yahoo and similar personal accounts without justification.
4. The correspondent author(s) have obtained the approval of the submission in writing of their co-authors. All authors will be contacted by email with a copy of both the initial and corrected submission for approval.
5. All authors have to disclose any conflict of interest.
6. The contributions of all authors must be described using the CrediT Taxonomy system

TEXT BOX 1: Basic CrediT taxonomy

| Contributor role/Role definition |
|----------------------------------|
|----------------------------------|

- | |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conceptualization Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims. 2. Methodology Development or design of methodology; creation of models 3. Software Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components. 4. Validation Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs. 5. Formal analysis Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data. 6. Investigation Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection. 7. Resources Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools. 8. Data Curation Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later reuse. 9. Writing – original draft preparation Creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically writing the initial draft (including substantive translation). 10. Writing – review and editing Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work by those from the original research group, specifically critical review, commentary or revision – including pre- or post-publication stages. 11. Visualization Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/data presentation. |
|---|

12. **Supervision** Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, including mentorship external to the core team.
13. **Project administration** Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution.
14. **Funding acquisition** Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication.

Data protection

By submitting a manuscript to or reviewing for this publication, your name, email address, and affiliation, and other contact details the publication might require, will be used for the regular operations of the publication, including, when necessary, sharing with the publisher (LJMU Open Journals Service) and partners for production and publication. The publication and the publisher recognize the importance of protecting the personal information collected from users in the operation of these services and have practices in place to ensure that steps are taken to maintain the security, integrity, and privacy of the personal data collected and processed. You can learn more at <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/data-protection>.

The contents of your submission will remain scientifically confidential, and we will inform you of any data breach that may occur in our systems compromising your submission.

NOTE: Where the contents of the submission may amount to a distinct criminal offence, we reserve the right to contact the relevant authorities.

MANUSCRIPT CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS

JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS DISCOVERY (JNPD) publishes Original Articles, Review Articles, Mini-reviews and Short Communications.

Reviews deal with topics of current interest in all relevant areas of phytochemical analysis. Rather than an assemblage of detailed information with a complete literature survey, a critically selected treatment of the material is desired; unsolved problems and possible developments should also be discussed.

Mini-reviews present concise coverage of highlights of any hot topic in phytochemical analysis. It must not exceed five pages inclusive of any tables, figures, schemes and list of references.

Although reviews and mini-reviews are generally written upon invitation of the editor, unsolicited manuscripts are also welcome provided they are in keeping with the character of the journal. Review and mini-review authors should contact the Editor-in-Chief.

How to submit

Once you have prepared your submission in accordance with the Guidelines, manuscripts should be submitted online at <https://openjournals.ljmu.ac.uk/index.php/JNPD/about/submissions>

IMPORTANT: Please check whether you already have an account in the system before trying to create a new one. If you have reviewed or authored for the journal in the past year it is likely that you will have had an account created.

We use the [Open Journal Systems](#), an open source software application for managing and publishing scholarly journals. Originally developed and released by PKP in 2001 to improve access to research, it

is the most widely used open source journal publishing platform in existence, with over 25,000 journals using it worldwide.

File types

We require the authors to submit their work in a SINGLE file with text, figures, tables and references. We recommend authors to use our template to submit. This template provides guidance on the information that is required for and avoids delays during review.

Although initially we may accept manuscripts in any format and using any reference style, after peer review authors must submit their corrected submission using our template.

Manuscript style

Use a standard font of the 12-point type: Arial, Helvetica or Courier and single-line space your manuscript. Please include continuous line numbering throughout the main document of your manuscript and ensure that pages are sequentially numbered.

Initial Submissions

An editable source file must be uploaded at this stage. Tables and images must be incorporated into the main text where they correspond.

Revised Submissions

Your revised submission must be uploaded following our template (Editable source file). Tables and images must be incorporated into the main text in sequence after being cited following our template. Editable source files must be uploaded at this stage. All fields must be filled in.

In case the quality of the images or figures is low, you may be asked to provide separate files. Preferred formats for Images can be submitted in .ppt, .xls, .eps or .pdf file is provided in addition to the source files. Figures may be also provided in .tiff or .jpg (low compression) format.

Final Publication

Your manuscript will appear online as an Open Access paper without any associated fees. We operate for free, so please be aware that we do not have the resources for professional editing or typesetting. You are responsible for using the template provided in a professional way, and to proofread all the contents for typos, errors, etc. Although reviewers and editors will provide guidance and feedback on your manuscript, you may want to pay for professional services to ensure the quality of your work in terms of typos, references, omissions, quality of figures, formatting of tables, etc. We are not responsible for any of those in the final version and we cannot change it. Major errors will require you to send an erratum/corrigendum to the editor and these will be published separately.

PREPARING THE SUBMISSION

English Editing

Papers must be in English. Oxford English Dictionary or American spelling is acceptable, provided usage is consistent within the manuscript.

Manuscripts that are ambiguous or incomprehensible, in the opinion of the Editor or the Reviewers, will be invited to resubmit an improved text. Note that we do not provide an English Checking Service. We advise that authors from non-English speaking countries use such services to improve the quality of their submissions.

Manuscript style

Use a standard font of the 12-point type: Times, Helvetica, or Courier is preferred. It is not necessary to double-line space your manuscript. Please include continuous line numbering throughout the main document of your manuscript and ensure that pages are sequentially numbered.

Parts of the Manuscript

- Full title
- Short title of up to 70 characters (if necessary)
- Names and affiliations of all authors
- The full address, ORCID ID, email, and telephone of the main/correspondence author.
- Name(s) of any sponsor(s) of the research contained in the paper, along with grant number(s).
- Contributions of all the authors (use abbreviations for their names) following the Credit taxonomy
- Enter a summary of between 200-300 words for all submissions
- Keywords. Authors should prepare no more than 10 keywords for their manuscript.

Abstract

Articles must have a structured abstract. A structured abstract is a concise summary of the whole paper, not just the conclusions, and MUST be written using the subsections, e.g. introduction, objectives, material and methods, results, and conclusion. The abstract should be no more than 300 words. It is crucial that the abstract conveys the importance of the work and be understandable without reference to the rest of the manuscript to a multidisciplinary audience. Abstracts should not contain any citation to other published works. It MUST contain the most important numerical values/results to back-up the conclusion.

Main Text: Research Articles

Research Articles have to be structured in the following way:

INTRODUCTION

No sub-sections are allowed in this section. Focus on the novelty of the methodology employed and provide explicit justify your work). Detailed reviews of the uses or biological activities of the natural product material(s) studied, or of compounds derived there from, are not required. The full name (in italic font) and authority of each plant species must be provided at first mention: thereafter, plant species may be referred to in an abbreviated form unless such an abbreviation is ambiguous. Local or trivial names of plant species may be provided in the Introduction but should not be used within the text of the manuscript as an alternative to the species name.

Use Chemical Abstracts nomenclature for chemical names and structures. Proprietary names should be accompanied by the appropriate symbol (® or ™) the first time that they are mentioned. Common acronyms for biomedical names are acceptable, but all others must be defined when first mentioned. Do not use abbreviated names or formulae (i.e. H₂O, EtOAc, NaCl) for common chemicals or reagents. Non-standard units must be defined. Avoid abbreviations to name plant extracts.

EXPERIMENTAL

Reagents

We do not support a Materials/Reagents/Chemicals section. Please include the reagents and instruments within their corresponding method

Details concerning the authentication of all plant materials

All samples employed in the study are required, and voucher specimens must be available (provide the name and address of the herbarium/repository and the reference number of each specimen/sample).

All plants and microorganisms must be named using the currently accepted Latin Binomial name with full authorities at the beginning, after which the standard abbreviated Latin name without authorities is enough.

GPS coordinates of the location where they were sourced from and permissions to collect them when necessary. You must provide the status of the species according the IUCN Red List. When you submit you are responsible for abiding all current Biodiversity conventions (such as Nagoya Protocols, etc.). Note that your publication may be used by certain countries as a proof of biopiracy.

Any safety precautions regarding the experiments described must be brought to the attention of the reader.

Methods

A description of the methods allowing for reproduction of your work is required. We do not accept references only. If you modified the original methods you must disclose exactly how and show that the modified method is comparable to the original one by using suitable positive and negative references.

Ethical approval for research methods

A statement must be included to indicate that the work was carried out according to all local, national, and international regulations and requirements, and that permission of the appropriate Ethical Committee has been obtained if the described research involved the use of animals or humans, genetically modified organisms or any other methods which may pose ethical issues

Results and Discussion

The Results and discussion should focus on the novelty of the methodology employed and its advantages with respect to techniques previously used (if any). All novel quantitative methods described must be fully validated according to accepted International criteria and must be accompanied by full statistical data in support of such validation. Results deriving from the application of the developed methodology are welcomed but should be summarised as far as possible: such applications must not form the focus of the paper. A meaningful conclusion is expected but not necessary.

References

All references should be numbered consecutively in order of appearance and should follow the Harvard style.

Funding:

All funding received must be disclosed with their corresponding reference numbers and granting institution and country.

Acknowledgements

Authors may wish to thank those who have provided assistance during the course of the described study or with the preparation of the manuscript. Written permission to use their names in the context of the paper must be obtained from all persons who are individually acknowledged in the manuscript. Acknowledgement of financial support should appear on the Title page.

Figures and Chemical structures Rules

Place the figures and structures as soon as possible AFTER mentioning/citing it within the text. Lettering within figures must be of a reasonable size that would still be clearly legible upon reduction, and consistent within each figure and set of figures. Where a key to symbols is required, please include this in the artwork itself, not in the figure legend. All illustrations must be supplied at the following minimum resolutions:

- Black and white and colour photos - 300 dpi
- Graphs, drawings, etc - 800 dpi preferred; 600 dpi minimum
- Combinations of photos and drawings (black and white and colour) - 500 dpi

Chemical structures should be prepared in a professional software such as ChemDraw, ACD labs, Biovia (the last two are free for academics and students) in minimum widths of 80mm (one column) or 175mm (two column) . However, the one-column format should be used whenever possible as this allows greater flexibility in the layout of the manuscript. Use the following settings:

Supporting Information

Supporting information is not essential to the article but provides greater depth and background and may include tables, figures, videos, data sets, etc. This material can be submitted with your manuscript, and will appear online, without editing or typesetting.

Cover letter

Proposals for reviews and minireviews may be sent to any of the Editors-in-Chief.

The authors of original research are responsible for identifying the “section/topic” more relevant to their work and address the cover letter to the section leader, explaining the scientific value of their contribution in terms of both originality and methodologies:

- **Natural Products Synthesis.** Section Lead: Dr Fyaz Ismail (Email: F.M.Ismail@ljmu.ac.uk)
- **Natural Products Analysis** Section Lead: Dr Alistair Fielding (Email: A.J.Fielding@ljmu.ac.uk)
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- **Nutraceuticals Functional Foods** Section Lead: Prof Khalid Rahman (Email: K.Rahman@ljmu.ac.uk)
- **Phytochemistry, Phytotherapy, Ethnobotany and ethnopharmacology,** Section Lead: Dr Jose M. Prieto-Garcia (Email: j.m.prietogarcia@ljmu.ac.uk)
- **Natural Cosmetics** Section Leads: Dr Touraj Ehtezazi (formulation aspects) (Email address: T.Ehtezazi@ljmu.ac.uk) Dr Jose M. Prieto-Garcia (functional aspects) (Email: j.m.prietogarcia@ljmu.ac.uk)

End of Guidelines