

Ethical Responsibilities

An International Journal, The Journal of the Orchid Society of India (*J. Orchid Soc. India*) regularly published since 1987 is committed to protecting the integrity of the scientific record. In handling questions of possible misconduct, the journal follows the guidance issued by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Authors are expected to present their research honestly and transparently. Misrepresentation in any form undermines confidence in the journal, in the authorship process, and in science more broadly. To safeguard this trust, contributors are asked to observe the following practices:

- **Single submission.** A manuscript should be under review at only one journal at a time; parallel submissions elsewhere are not permitted.
- **Originality.** Submitted work must be new and must not have appeared previously in any language or format, whether in whole or in part except where the manuscript is explicitly building on the author's own earlier work. In such cases, the connection to the prior publication must be disclosed clearly so that any overlap in text or data is transparent.
- **No salami-slicing.** A single body of research should not be artificially divided into multiple manuscripts purely to increase the author's publication count, whether those pieces go to different journals or the same journal over time.
- **Justified secondary publication.** There are limited circumstances where republishing is acceptable for instance, producing a translation of an already-published paper for a new readership but this must be done openly and with appropriate conditions met.
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- **Dual-use research awareness.** If findings could realistically be misused to endanger public health or security for example, information on hazardous biological agents, ways to undermine vaccine efficacy, dangerous chemical applications, or other technology with weaponization potential this must be explicitly flagged within the manuscript.
- **Authorship accuracy.** The full list and order of authors, along with the designated corresponding author, should be finalized and correct at the time of submission. Changes during revision are discouraged and require a documented justification; no authorship changes can be made once a paper has been accepted.

These points are guideline and authors remain responsible for respecting third-party rights, including copyright and moral rights, in all cases.

On request, corresponding authors should be able to supply supporting material such as raw data, physical samples, or lab records to allow verification of reported results. This obligation does not extend to confidential or proprietary information.

Handling Suspected Misconduct

Where there is reason to suspect misconduct or fraud, the journal (together with its publishing partner, where applicable) will investigate in line with recognized procedures. Authors found to be implicated will be contacted at their listed email address and given a chance to respond. Depending on the outcome, the journal may take one or more of the following actions:

- If the paper is still under review, it may be declined and returned to the authors.
- If the paper has already appeared online, the response will depend on the severity of the issue:
 - a correction or erratum may be appended to the article;
 - a formal expression of concern may be attached;
 - or, in the most serious cases, the article may be retracted.

Whatever action is taken, the underlying reason will be stated publicly in the correction, expression of concern, or retraction notice. A retracted article remains accessible on the platform but is clearly watermarked "Retracted," with an accompanying note explaining why.

Additional consequences may include notifying the author's home institution, and adding a record of the suspected breach to the author's and the article's publication history.

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Authors who discover a material error in their own published work are obliged to notify the journal promptly and explain how the mistake affects the paper's conclusions. Depending on the nature of the problem, the journal will decide whether a correction or a full retraction is warranted, and any retraction notice will specify exactly which parts of the paper are affected.

Reviewer Suggestions

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Corresponding authors should be ready to provide documentation supporting ethical compliance if asked, whether during peer review or after publication.

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