

Instructions for Authors – Natural Products and Bioprospecting

(Version: Updated in 2023)

Thank you for your interest in *Natural Products and Bioprospecting*. Please read the complete Instructions for Authors carefully prior to submission.

Natural Products and Bioprospecting serves as the international forum for essential research on natural products and focuses on, but is not limited to, the following aspects:

- Natural products: isolation and structure elucidation
- Natural products: synthesis
- Biological evaluation of biologically active natural products
- Bioorganic and medicinal chemistry
- Biosynthesis and microbiological transformation
- Fermentation and plant tissue cultures
- Bioprospecting of natural products from natural resources

All research articles published in this journal have undergone rigorous peer review. In addition to original research articles, *Natural Products and Bioprospecting* publishes reviews and short communications, aiming to rapidly disseminate the research results of timely interest, and comprehensive reviews of emerging topics in all the areas of natural products. It is also an open access journal, which provides free access to its articles to anyone, anywhere.

Natural Products and Bioprospecting is a fully open access journal. All articles accepted for publication will be published under a CC-BY license. The Article Processing Charge is currently covered by Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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I. Types of Manuscript

The Journal publishes Reviews, Regular Articles, and Short Communications.

1. **Reviews:** (1) Regular Reviews: Describing the research results of the author; (2) Invited Reviews: Reviews are submitted by invitation from the editorial board, and encompass recent important scientific discoveries.
2. **Regular Articles:** The manuscript being submitted must consist of original research performed by the authors and the research must include new information that is of significance.
3. **Short Communications:** Papers containing new facts and important data derived from incomplete or partial studies may be suitable as a Short Communications. In general, a Short Communications should not exceed 2,000 words (approximately 4 printed pages).

II. Submit Online

1. Manuscript Submission

Submission of a manuscript implies: that the work described has not been published before; that it is not under consideration for publication anywhere else; that its publication has been approved by all co-authors, if any, as well as by the responsible authorities – tacitly or explicitly – at the institute where the work has been carried out. The publisher will not be held legally responsible should there be any claims for compensation.

2. Permissions

Authors wishing to include figures, tables, or text passages that have already been published elsewhere are required to obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format and to include evidence that such permission has been granted when submitting their papers. Any material received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the authors.

3. Online Submission

Please follow the hyperlink “Submit online” on the right and upload all of your manuscript files following the instructions given on the screen.

Please ensure you provide all relevant editable source files. Failing to submit these source files might cause unnecessary delays in the review and production process.

III. Manuscript Preparation

Format and Style

(1) Text Format

Manuscripts should be submitted in Word.

- Use a normal, plain font (e.g., 10-point Times Roman) for text.
- Use the automatic page numbering function to number the pages.
- Do not use field functions.
- Use tab stops or other commands for indents, not the space bar.
- Use the table function, not spreadsheets, to make tables.
- Use the equation editor or MathType for equations.
- Save your file in docx format (Word 2007 or higher) or doc format (older Word versions).

(2) Headings

Please use the decimal system of headings with no more than three levels.

(3) Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be defined at first mention and used consistently thereafter. Please limit to an absolute minimum the use of abbreviations in the title. However, the following need not to be defined:

ADP (adenosine 5'-diphosphate), AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome), AMP (adenosine 5'-monophosphate or adenylic acid), ATP (adenosine 5'-triphosphate), cAMP (adenosine 3',5'-cyclic monophosphate), cDNA (complementary DNA), CoA (coenzyme A), DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), ED50 (50% effective dose), ESR (electron spin resonance), FABMS (fast atom bombardment mass spectrometry), FAD (flavin adenine dinucleotide), GCMS (gas chromatography-mass spectrometry), GLC (gas-liquid chromatography), GMP (guanosine 5'-monophosphate), HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography, high-pressure liquid chromatography), IC50 (inhibitory concentration, 50%), IR (infrared), LC (liquid chromatography), LC/MS (liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry), LD50 (50% lethal dose), mRNA (messenger RNA), MS (mass spectrum), NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance), P450 (as in cytochrome P450), RNA (ribonucleic acid), TLC (thin-layer chromatography), tRNA (transfer RNA), UV (ultraviolet)

(4) Affiliations

When there are two or more authors and they belong to more than one affiliation, the connection between each author and his or her affiliation should be indicated by a, b, c... placed after each author's name and before each affiliation.

Examples for describing affiliations and mailing addresses:

- a. State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming 650201, China
- b. University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

(5) Units

The following units should be used: length (m, cm, mm, μm , nm, \AA), mass (kg, g, mg, μg , ng, μg , mol, mmol, μmol), volume (L, mL, μL), time (s, min, h, d), temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$, K), radiation (Bq, dpm, Gy, Sv), and concentration (M, mM, mol/L, mmol/L, mg/mL, $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, %, % (v/v), % (w/v), ppm, ppb)

(6) Spectral Data

Please report spectral data in the following format:

Melodinine N (**1**): colorless needles (MeOH); mp 176–177 $^{\circ}\text{C}$; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{21} - 62.3$ (c 0.3, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\log \epsilon$) 289 (3.69), 241 (4.06), 224 (3.74), 220 (3.74), 213 (3.72), 205 (3.72) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3425, 2950, 1725, 1605, 1464, 1174, 752 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz) δ 8.21 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H-9), 7.01 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H-11), 6.77 (1H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H-10), 6.62 (1H, d, $J = 7.5$ Hz, H-12), 5.67 (1H, d, $J = 9.7$ Hz, H-15), 5.62 (1H, m, H-14), 4.44 (2H, br s, H-3), 3.91–3.87 (2H, m, H-5), 3.78 (1H, s, H-21), 3.75 (3H, s, CO_2CH_3), 2.94 (1H, m, H-16), 2.88 (1H, m, H-6b), 2.34 (1H, m, H-17b), 2.15 (1H, m, H-6a), 2.04 (1H, m, H-18b), 1.78 (1H, m, H-19b), 1.71 (1H, m, H-17a), 1.60 (1H, t, $J = 12.0$ Hz, H-19a), 1.30 (1H, t, $J = 12.0$ Hz, H-18a); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 100 MHz) δ 173.9 (C, CO_2Me), 148.5 (C, C-13), 136.4 (C, C-8), 130.0 (CH, C-15), 127.7 (CH, C-11), 126.6 (CH, C-9), 120.5 (CH, C-10), 120.1 (CH, C-14), 82.6 (CH, C-21), 69.1 (CH_2 , C-5), 65.8 (C, C-2), 65.7 (CH_2 , C-3), 58.7 (C, C-7), 52.3 (CH_3 , CO_2CH_3), 43.1 (CH, C-16), 35.2 (C, C-20), 32.9 (CH_2 , C-18), 32.5 (CH_2 , C-17), 32.2 (CH_2 , C-6), 32.2 (CH_2 , C-19); ESIMS m/z 353 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$; positive ion HRESIMS m/z 353.1865 (calcd for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 353.1866).

(7) Nomenclature

The nomenclature used for chemical compounds shall be in accordance with the nomenclature rules formulated by IUPAC. Alternatively, naming may conform to the nomenclature in the index of Chemical Abstracts or the Ring Index.

Manuscript Structure

The content of manuscripts must be arranged as follows: (1) a *Graphical Abstract*; (2) a *Title Page* with authors name(s) and address(es); (3) an *Abstract*; (4) *Keywords*; (5) *Introduction*; (6) the *Results, Discussion and Conclusion* (preferably combined); (7) the *Experimental Section*; (8) *Acknowledgments*; (9) *Compliance with Ethical Standards*; and (9) *References, Figures and Tables*.

Authors have to include pagination.

(1) Title Page

The title page should include:

- The name(s) of the author(s)
- A concise and informative title
- The affiliations(s) and address(es) of the author(s)
- The e-mail address, and telephone number(s) of the corresponding author
- If available, the 16-digit ORCID of the author(s)

(2) Abstract

An abstract must be included in the submission. It should not exceed 200 words for Regular Articles and Reviews, or 100 words for Short Communications. Compounds mentioned in the abstract, and given as specific Arabic numerals that are bolded in the text, should also be accompanied in the abstract by the same bolded numerals. The abstract should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references.

(3) Graphical Abstract

The graphical abstract, which is essential to facilitate readers' understanding on the importance of the publishing content in an accessible and rapid way, must be provided at the time when the manuscript is first submitted.

Graphical abstracts should consist of carefully drawn figures (chemical structures, charts, graphs, or other informative illustration) that show the most striking feature of the article in a pictorial form. The use of color to enhance the value and quality of the graphic is encouraged. Compound numbers can be given in the graphical abstract if they refer to a graphic also shown there.

(4) Keywords

Please provide 3 to 6 descriptive keywords (within 80 characters), listed in the decreasing order of their importance.

(5) Introduction

The manuscript should include an untitled introduction stating the purpose of the investigation and relating the manuscript to similar research.

(6) Results, Discussion and Conclusion (preferably combined)

The results should be presented concisely. Tables and figures should be designed to maximize the presentation and comprehension of the experimental data. The discussion should interpret the results and relate them to existing knowledge in the field in as clear and brief a fashion as possible.

Although each section may be separated by headings, they should form one continuous narrative and only include details essential to the arguments presented. If a discussion is separately provided, it should not include a repetition of the results, but only indicate conclusions reached on the basis of them, and those from other referred works.

(7) Experimental Section

The Experimental should include brief details of the methods used such that a competent researcher in the field may be able to repeat the work.

It should begin with a subsection entitled General Experimental Procedures. This subsection will typically contain brief details of instruments used, and identification of sources of specialized chemicals, biochemicals and molecular biology kits.

The next subsection describes the source(s) and documentation of biological materials used, whether in reference to whole plants or parts therefrom, crude drugs, or any other plant material from which identifiable chemical substances are obtained for the first time. Documentation must also include a reference to voucher specimen(s) and voucher number(s) of the plants or other material examined. If available, authors should quote the name and address of the authority who identified each non-cultivated plant investigated. Specimens should preferentially be deposited in a major regional herbarium where the collection is maintained by state or private institution and which permits loan of such materials.

With other microorganisms, the culture collection from which they were either accessed and/or deposited should be included, together with identification of the strain designation code. The Experimental Procedures employed should be concise but sufficiently detailed that a qualified researcher will be able to repeat the studies undertaken, and these should emphasize either truly new procedures or essential modifications of existing procedures. Experimental details normally omitted include: (1) method of preparation of common chemical and biochemical derivatives, (2) excessive details of separation of compounds, proteins and enzymes, e.g. preparation of columns, TLC plates, column and fraction size.

Compound characterization: Physical and spectroscopic data for new compounds must be comprehensive, and follow the order shown below:

- compound name (and assigned number in text);
- physical state of compound (e.g. oil, crystal, liquid, etc.),
- melting and/or boiling point;
- optical rotation and/or circular dichroism measurements, if optically active;
- UV; IR, ¹H NMR; ¹³C NMR; MS.

For all new compounds, either high-resolution mass spectral or elemental analysis data are required.

(8) Acknowledgements

The Acknowledgment section should include credits [initial(s) and last name] for technical assistance, financial support, and other appropriate recognition. The names of funding organizations should be written in full.

(9) Compliance with Ethical Standards

Authors should include the following statements (if applicable) in a separate section entitled “Compliance with Ethical Standards” when submitting a paper:

- Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest
- Research involving Human Participants and/or Animals
- Informed consent

The corresponding author should be prepared to collect documentation of compliance with ethical standards and send if requested during peer review or after publication. The Editors reserve the right to reject manuscripts that do not comply with the above-mentioned guidelines. The author will be held responsible for false statements or failure to fulfill the above-mentioned guidelines.

Conflict of Interest

Authors must submit a statement of Conflict of Interest which will be published at the end of the articles. Any relationships or interests that could have direct or potential influence or impart bias on the work must be disclosed.

Editorial Board Members and Editors are required to declare any competing interests and may be excluded from the peer review process if a competing interest exists. In addition, they should exclude themselves from handling manuscripts in cases where there is a competing interest. Where an Editor or Editorial Board Member is on the author list they must declare this in the competing interests section on the submitted manuscript. If they are an author or have any other competing interest regarding a specific manuscript, another Editor or member of the Editorial Board will be assigned to assume responsibility for overseeing peer review. These submissions are subject to the exact same review process as any other manuscript. Editorial Board Members are welcome to submit papers to the journal. These submissions are not given any priority over other manuscripts, and Editorial Board Member status has no bearing on editorial consideration.

See below examples of disclosures:

Funding: This study was funded by X (grant number X).

Conflict of Interest: Author A has received research grants from Company A. Author B has received a speaker honorarium from Company X and owns stock in Company Y. Author C is a member of committee Z.

If no Conflict of Interest is declared, this will be stated in the article using the following wording:

“Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.”

Research involving human Participants and/or animals & informed consent

A. Statement of human rights

When reporting studies that involve human participants, authors should include a statement that the studies have been approved by the appropriate institutional and/or national research ethics committee

and have been performed in accordance with the ethical standards as laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

If doubt exists whether the research was conducted in accordance with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration or comparable standards, the authors must explain the reasons for their approach, and demonstrate that the independent ethics committee or institutional review board explicitly approved the doubtful aspects of the study.

The following statements should be included in the text before the References section:

Ethical approval: “All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.”

For retrospective studies, please add the following sentence:

“For this type of study formal consent is not required.”

B. Statement on the welfare of animals

The welfare of animals used for research must be respected. When reporting experiments on animals, authors should indicate whether the international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals have been followed, and that the studies have been approved by a research ethics committee at the institution or practice at which the studies were conducted (where such a committee exists).

For studies with animals, the following statement should be in the text before the References section:

Ethical approval: “All applicable international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed.”

If applicable (where such a committee exists): “All procedures performed in studies involving animals were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institution or practice at which the studies were conducted.”

If articles do not contain studies with human participants or animals by any of the authors, please include the following statements:

“This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.”

Informed consent

All individuals have individual rights that are not to be infringed. Individual participants in studies have, for example, the right to decide what happens to the (identifiable) personal data gathered, to what they have said during a study or an interview, as well as to any photograph that was taken. Hence it is important that all participants gave their informed consent in writing prior to inclusion in the study.

Identifying details (names, dates of birth, identity numbers and other information) of the participants that were studied should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and genetic profiles unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the participant (or parent or guardian if the participant is incapable) gave written informed consent for publication. Complete anonymity is difficult to achieve in some cases, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. For example, masking the eye region in photographs of participants is inadequate protection of anonymity. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, such as in genetic profiles, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning.

The following statement should be included:

Informed consent: “Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.”

If identifying information about participants is available in the article, the following statement should be included:

“Additional informed consent was obtained from all individual participants for whom identifying information is included in this article.”

(10) Citations and References

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. Citation of a reference as "in press" implies that the item has been accepted for publication. Each reference may have its own citation number, or alternatively,

References to the literature, regardless of their nature, should be numbered in order of appearance in the manuscript and cited in the text with numbers in brackets. Each reference may have its own citation number, or alternatively, references referring to the same topic may be grouped under a common number using alphabetical subdesignations (e.g., 1a, 1b, 1c, etc.). References should follow the format shown:

[1] Smith JJ. The world of science. *Am J Sci.* 1999;36:234–5.

[2] O'Mahony S, Rose SL, Chilvers AJ, Ballinger JR, Solanki CK, Barber RW, et al. Finding an optimal method for imaging lymphatic vessels of the upper limb. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging.* 2004.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-003-1399-3>.

[3] Slifka MK, Whitton JL. Clinical implications of dysregulated cytokine production. *Dig J Mol Med.* 2000.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s801090000086>.

[4] Wyllie AH, Kerr JFR, Currie AR. Cell death: the significance of apoptosis. In: Bourne GH, Danielli JF, Jeon KW, editors. *International review of cytology.* London: Academic; 1980. p. 251–306.

[5] Blenkinsopp A, Paxton P. Symptoms in the pharmacy: a guide to the management of common illness. 3rd ed. Oxford: Blackwell Science; 1998.

[6] Doe J. Title of subordinate document. In: The dictionary of substances and their effects. Royal Society of Chemistry. 1999. [http://www.rsc.org/dose/title of subordinate document](http://www.rsc.org/dose/title%20of%20subordinate%20document). Accessed 15 Jan 1999.

[7] Healthwise Knowledgebase. US Pharmacopeia, Rockville. 1998. <http://www.healthwise.org>. Accessed 21 Sept 1998.

[8] Doe, J.: Title of preprint. <http://www.uniheidelberg.de/mydata.html> (1999). Accessed 25 Dec 1999.

[9] ISSN International Centre: The ISSN register. <http://www.issn.org> (2006). Accessed 20 Feb 2007.

The author is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of all references. In particular, authors must cite all of the references from their own work on a particular topic, such as all papers published or submitted on the constituents of a given organism under consideration.

(11) Electronic Supplementary Material

Natural Products and Bioprospecting accepts Electronic Supplemental Material. Supplemental files supplied will be published alongside the electronic version of your article in *Natural Products and Bioprospecting* web products.

(12) Additional Information for Review

Other data necessary for review may be submitted as additional information. Additional information will not be published in the journal.

IV. Editorial Procedure

Peer-review is the system used to assess the quality of a manuscript before it is published. Independent researchers in the relevant research area assess submitted manuscripts for originality, validity and significance to help editors determine whether the manuscript should be published in their journal.

Natural Products and Bioprospecting follows a single-blind reviewing procedure, where the reviewers are aware of the names and affiliations of the authors, but the reviewer reports provided to authors are anonymous. Single-blind peer review is the traditional model of peer review that many reviewers are comfortable with, and it facilitates a dispassionate critique of a manuscript.

Submitted manuscripts will generally be reviewed by two or more experts who will be asked to evaluate whether the manuscript is scientifically sound and coherent, whether it duplicates already published work, and whether or not the manuscript is sufficiently clear for publication. The Editors will reach a decision based on these reports and, where necessary, they will consult with members of the Editorial Board.

V. After Acceptance

1. Proof reading

Upon acceptance of your article you will receive a link to Springer's MyPublication web page where you can confirm the publication of your article with open access under the Creative Commons Attribution License. Once the Author Query Application has been completed, your article will be processed and you will receive the proofs.

Routine rephrasing of sentences or additions are not permitted at the page proof stage. Alterations should be restricted to serious changes in interpretation or corrections of data. Extensive or important changes on page proofs, including changes to the title or list of authors, are subject to Editorial review. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to ensure that all authors listed on the manuscript agree with the changes made on the proofs.

After online publication, further changes can only be made in the form of a Correction, which will be hyperlinked to the articles.

2. Corrections

If errors of consequence are detected in a published paper, the author should send a correction to the Editor for publication as an "Addition and Correction".

VI. Open Access and Article Processing Charge

Natural Products and Bioprospecting is a fully open access journal. All articles accepted for publication will be published under a CC-BY license. The Article Processing Charge is currently covered by Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Author do not need to pay if the manuscript can be accepted by the editor.

VII. Ethical Responsibilities of Authors

Natural Products and Bioprospecting is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the journal will follow the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct.

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the journal, the professionalism of scientific authorship, and ultimately the entire scientific endeavour.

If there is a suspicion of misconduct, the journal will carry out an investigation following the COPE guidelines. If, after investigation, the allegation seems to raise valid concerns, the accused author will be contacted and given an opportunity to address the issue. If misconduct has been established beyond reasonable doubt, this may result in the Editor-in-Chief's implementation of the following measures, including, but not limited to:

- If the article is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.
- If the article has already been published online, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction, either an erratum will be placed with the article or in severe cases complete retraction of the article will occur. The reason must be given in the published erratum or retraction note. Please note that retraction means that the paper is maintained on the platform, watermarked "retracted" and explanation for the retraction is provided in a note linked to the watermarked article.
- The author's institution may be informed.

VIII. Research Data Policy and Data Availability Statement

Natural Products and Bioprospecting operates a [Type 3 research data policy](#) (life sciences). A submission to the journal implies that materials described in the manuscript, including all relevant raw data, will be freely available to any researcher wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality.

We recommend that the data be archived in the Science Data Bank: <https://www.scidb.cn/en/c/npb>. This ScienceDB website is a platform for users to store and obtain data for free, and ScienceDB has been recommended by Springer Nature, American Geophysical Union, Cell Press and Elsevier, and is included in Data Citation Index and Google Dataset Search.

The scientific data from projects supported by the funding of the Chinese government agencies must be deposited in the ScienceDB before publication of the paper. However, community-specific mandates for data deposition (see data types and repositories here) should take precedence over this mandate for Science DB.

Data Availability Statement

All original articles must include a Data availability statement. Data availability statements should include information on where data supporting the results reported in the article can be found including, where applicable, hyperlinks to publicly archived datasets analysed or generated during the study. By data we mean the minimal dataset that would be necessary to interpret, replicate and build upon the findings reported in the article. We recognise it is not always possible to share research data publicly, for instance when individual privacy could be compromised, and in such instances data availability should still be stated in the manuscript along with any conditions for access. Data Availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

[1] The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [NAME] repository, [PERSISTENT WEB LINK TO DATASETS]

[2] The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not publicly available due [REASON WHY DATA ARE NOT PUBLIC] but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

[3] The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

[4] Data sharing not applicable to this article as no datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

[5] All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].

[6] The data that support the findings of this study are available from [third party name] but restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for the current study, and so are not publicly available. Data are however available from the authors upon reasonable request and with permission of [third party name].

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in the Science Data Bank at [https://www.doi.org/\[DOI number\]](https://www.doi.org/[DOI number]) or [http://resolve.pid21.cn/\[CSTR number\]](http://resolve.pid21.cn/[CSTR number]).

More examples of template data availability statements, which include examples of openly available and restricted access datasets, are available:

[Data availability statements](#)

** Instructions for Authors updated in 2023**