

Instructions for Authors

About the Journal

Journal of Medicinal Plants and Natural Products, is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research papers, short communications, reviews and letters on medicinal plant (extracts or isolated constituents) research.

Scope of the journal

JMPNP publishes studies focusing on:

- Biological, pharmacological and toxicological evaluations of medicinal plants and their isolated constituents, *in vitro* and *in vivo*.
- Chemical analysis and characterization of medicinal plants and extraction and purification of natural products.
- Traditional medicine (ethnomedicine) focusing on ethnobotany and ethnopharmacology of herbal therapeutics, phytomedicine and herbal preparations.
- Application of medicinal plants in healthcare, clinical trials and pilot studies.

It is noteworthy that studies on standardized plant extracts and isolated natural products and those discussing the mechanisms of action will receive special attention.

The Editorial Process

A manuscript will be reviewed for possible publication with the understanding that it is being solely submitted to JMPNP alone at a time and has not been published anywhere in any languages, simultaneously submitted, or already accepted for publication elsewhere. One of the authors should be authorized by the others to correspond with the Journal for all matters related to the manuscript. All manuscripts received are duly acknowledged. On submission, editors review all submitted manuscripts initially for suitability for formal review. Manuscripts with insufficient originality, serious scientific or technical flaws, or lack of a significant message are rejected before proceeding for formal peer-review.

Manuscripts that are found suitable for being reviewed, are sent to two or more expert reviewers. During submission, contributors are requested to provide names of two or three qualified reviewers, but this is not mandatory. The reviewers should not be affiliated with the same institutes as the contributors. However, the selection of these reviewers is at the sole discretion of the editor. The journal follows a double-blind review process, wherein the reviewers and authors are unaware of each other's identity. The comments and suggestions (acceptance/ rejection/ amendments) received from reviewers will be conveyed to the corresponding author. If required, the author is requested to provide a point-by-point response to reviewers' comments and submit a revised version of the manuscript within 14 official days.

Page proofs of the manuscripts accepted for publication will be sent to the corresponding author. The corresponding author is expected to return the corrected proofs within one week. To achieve faster and greater dissemination of knowledge and information, the journal publishes articles online as 'Ahead of Print' immediately on acceptance.

Authorship Criteria

Authorship credit should be based only on substantial contributions to each of the three components mentioned below:

1. Concept and design of study or acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of data;
2. Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and
3. Final approval of the version to be published.

Participation solely in the acquisition of funding or the collection of data does not justify authorship. General supervision of the research group is not sufficient for authorship. Each contributor should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content of the manuscript. The order of naming the contributors should be based on the relative contribution of the contributor towards the study and writing the manuscript. Once submitted, the order of authors cannot be changed without written consent of all the contributors.

Conflicts of Interest/ Competing Interests

All authors must disclose any and all conflicts of interest they may have with publication of the manuscript or an institution or product that is mentioned in the manuscript and/or is important to the outcome of the study presented. Authors should also disclose conflict of interest with products that compete with those mentioned in their manuscript.

Submission of Manuscripts

Please send your manuscript via our Journal Email (journalmpnp@gmail.com or journalmpnp@nkums.ac.ir). Please note that your manuscript must be submitted as a text document (ie. Word file). Manuscripts submitted as a PDF will be returned to authors, causing significant delays in the review process.

The submitted manuscripts that are not composed according to the "Instructions for Authors" would be returned to the authors for technical correction, before they undergo editorial/ peer-review. Generally, **three** separate files must be uploaded at the initial step:

1 Title Page: The template is now available at journalmpnp.nkums.ac.ir.

2Manuscript: From Title and Abstract till References (including Figures and Tables).

The file must not contain any mention of the authors' names or initials or the institution at which the study was done, affiliations or acknowledgements. Page headers/running title can include the title but not the authors' names. Manuscripts not in compliance with the Journal's blinding policy will be returned to the corresponding author. Use doc files. The pages should be numbered consecutively, beginning with the first page of the blinded article file.

3Cover letter: The template is now available at journalmpnp.nkums.ac.ir.

Preparation of a Manuscript

Before submitting a manuscript, contributors are requested to check for the latest instructions available. Instructions are also available at journalmpnp.nkums.ac.ir. JPNP accepts manuscripts written in American English. The font size of text should be 12 and the font type should be Times New Roman. The font size and shape of the subtitles should be bolded 14.

Types of Manuscripts

1 Original articles: These include randomized controlled trials, intervention studies, studies of screening and diagnostic test, outcome studies, cost effectiveness analyses, case-control series, and surveys with high response rate. The text of original articles amounting to up to **6000 words** (excluding Abstract, references and Tables) should be divided into sections with the headings Abstract, Key-words, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, References, Tables and Figure legends.

Abstract: maximum **250 words**(structured).

Key words: at least **6 key words**.

Abbreviations: If any, should be explained here.

Introduction: **500 words** maximum. The Introduction should briefly indicate the objectives of the study and provide enough background information to clarify why the study was undertaken and what hypotheses were tested. Please see examples at the following file.

Materials and Methods: The materials and methods section should be brief but sufficient to allow other investigators to repeat the research. Reference should be made to publish procedures wherever possible. All companies from which materials were obtained should be listed. This section must include the following items:

Ethics: When reporting studies on human beings, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 2000 (available at http://www.wma.net/e/policy/17-c_e.html). For prospective studies involving human participants, authors are expected to mention about

approval of regional/ national/ institutional or independent Ethics Committee or Review Board, obtaining informed consent from adult research participants and obtaining assent for children aged over 7 years participating in the trial. The age beyond which assent would be required could vary as per regional and/ or national guidelines. Ensure confidentiality of subjects by desisting from mentioning participants' names, initials or hospital numbers, especially in illustrative material. When reporting experiments on animals, indicate whether the institution's or a national research council's guide for, or any national law on the care and use of laboratory animals was followed.

The ethical standards of experiments must be in accordance with the guidelines provided by the CPCSEA and World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Humans for studies involving experimental animals and human beings, respectively). The journal will not consider any paper which is ethically unacceptable. A statement on ethics committee permission and ethical practices must be included in all research articles under the 'Materials and Methods' section.

Study design: Selection and Description of Participants: Describe your selection of the observational or experimental participants (patients or laboratory animals, including controls) clearly, including eligibility and exclusion criteria and a description of the source population. Technical information: Identify the methods, apparatus (give the manufacturer's name and address in parentheses), and procedures in sufficient detail to allow other workers to reproduce the results. Give references to established methods, including statistical methods (see below); provide references and brief descriptions for methods that have been published but are not well known; describe new or substantially modified methods, give reasons for using them, and evaluate their limitations. Identify precisely all drugs and chemicals used, including generic name(s), dose(s), and route(s) of administration.

Reports of randomized clinical trials should present information on all major study elements, including the protocol, assignment of interventions (methods of randomization, concealment of allocation to treatment groups), and the method of masking (blinding).

Statistical analysis: Authors must provide detailed information for each statistical test applied including: the type of test; specific p (small letter and not italic) values; degrees of freedom; population size; definition of population (e.g., number of individual measurements, number of animals, number of slices, number of times treatment was applied, etc.); and if performed, what correction was used to adjust for multiple pair wise comparisons.

Results: This section should present clearly but succinctly the experimental findings. Numerical data should be analyzed using appropriate statistical tests. Only results essential to establish the main points of the work should be included.

Figures and Tables: Figures should be (in jpeg) at high-resolution. Provide informative captions and notes for these items.

Discussion: Here, please include a summary of key findings, strengths and limitations of the study, interpretation and implications in the context of the totality of evidence, controversies raised by this study, and future research directions. Extensive discussion of the literature is discouraged.

References: JMPNP reference pattern will be explained in following pages

2 Review article: an overview of a single theme or topic for Journal of Medicinal Plants and Natural Products

Mostly solicited by the editors, but authors are also encouraged to submit potential topics for consideration. It is expected that these articles would be written by individuals who have done substantial work on the subject or are considered experts in the field. A short summary of the work done by the contributor(s) in the field of review should accompany the manuscript.

General Structure: **4000-6000 words, 8-10 printed pages**

Abstract: **maximum 250 words**

Key words: at least **10 key words**, not repeat the title, to make your paper more searchable.

Introduction

Text

Conclusion

References: JMPNP reference pattern will be explained in following pages.

References Style of JMPNP

JMPNP uses the Harvard reference style (author, date).

References should include authors' last names and initials, article title, journal, volume, page range, and year. Include the city and publisher's name for books.

Examples:

Kono K, Harada A, Watanabe T et al. (2002) A long-term surveillance of workers exposed to cadmium. Kankyo Hoken Report.

Main AR and Braid PE (1962) Hydrolysis of malathion by aliesterase in vitro and in vivo. Biochemical Journal 52:255-263.

Talcott RE (1980) Microsomal lipid peroxidation: Catalysis, effects, and inhibition by cytosolic protein. In: Coon MJ, Cooney AH and Estabrook RW (eds) *Microsomes, Drug Oxidations, and Chemical Carcinogenesis*, Vol. 2. New York: Academic Press, pp.753-761.

Tables

- Tables should be self-explanatory and should not duplicate textual material.
- Tables with more than 10 columns and 25 rows are not acceptable.
- Number tables, in Arabic numerals, consecutively in the order of their first citation in the text and supply a brief title for each.
- Place explanatory matter in footnotes, not in the heading.
- Explain in footnotes all non-standard abbreviations that are used in each table.
- Obtain permission for all fully borrowed, adapted, and modified tables and provide a credit line in the footnote.
- For footnotes use the following symbols, in this sequence: *, †, ‡, §, ||, ¶, **, ††, ‡‡
- Tables with their legends should be provided at the end of the text after the references. The tables along with their number should be cited at the relevant place in the text
- All the tables should be on editable formats. Tables images are not acceptable.

Illustrations (Figures)

You should provide primitive figure files that can be re-drawn easily. The curves or straight lines should be clear. Units cannot be omitted. Combine related curves in a single figure when possible. A composite of curves will save space and convey more information. Standard symbols (e.g. ○, ●, ×, □, ■, △, ▲) should be used when there are multiple curves.

Photographs, Images and Legends

- The photographs supplied should be at least 85 mm in height and 126 mm in width, and at a resolution of 300 dpi.
- Images submitted should be those which uniquely display the data. Figures are not limited, but must be thoroughly justified. Micrographs should be provided with a scale bar, if appropriate, instead of magnification. Figures should be at 300 dpi resolution (for a figure at least 50 mm in height and 86 mm in width).
- Please provide only one legend for each photograph or figure that contains all the pertinent information.

1. Figures or photographs should be grouped according to their themes. For example, Figure 1 Pathological changes of xxxx tissue before and after treatment. A: , B: , C: , D: , E: , F:
2. Explain the symbols, arrows, numbers, or letters in the illustrations.
3. Identify the method of staining and magnification of the photomicrographs (e.g. HE stain, ×900). For those including methodology, the legend should be 100-300 words.

Sending a revised manuscript

The revised version of the manuscript should be submitted online in a manner similar to that used for submission of the manuscript for the first time. However, there is no need to submit the “Title Page” or the “Cover Letter” file while submitting a revised version. When submitting a revised manuscript, contributors are requested to include, the ‘referees’ remarks along with point by point clarification at the beginning in the revised file itself. In addition, they are expected to highlight the changes.

Publication schedule

The journal publishes articles on its website immediately on acceptance and follows a ‘continuous publication’ schedule.

Processing and publication charges

JMPNP is a free of charge journal.