

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Pollution and Diseases — International Scientific Journal

<https://pollution-diseases.org>

Pollution and Diseases is committed to upholding the highest ethical and academic standards. Plagiarism in any form is strictly prohibited. Manuscripts submitted to the journal are screened for originality through similarity-checking tools and detailed editorial assessment.

This policy applies to all authors, regardless of academic level, geographic location, or institutional affiliation.

1. Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

1.1. Direct Plagiarism

Copying text, figures, tables, or data from another work without citation or quotation.

1.2. Mosaic or Patchwork Plagiarism

Rewriting another author's text with minor modifications while preserving the original structure, logic, or ideas without proper attribution.

1.3. Self-Plagiarism (Text Recycling)

Reusing significant portions of the author's own previously published work without citation, including:

- introduction text,
- methods,
- literature reviews,
- data or figures,
- analyses or conclusions.

Self-plagiarism is considered unethical unless properly referenced and justified.

1.4. Data Plagiarism

Using data, datasets, or analyses belonging to another researcher without appropriate permission and citation.

1.5. Figure, Image, or Map Plagiarism

Using images, photographs, satellite data, or graphics that originated elsewhere without citation or licensing rights.

1.6. Idea Plagiarism

Presenting another researcher's ideas, hypotheses, or conceptual frameworks as one's own, even if wording is changed.

2. Similarity Checking

2.1. Screening Tools

All submitted manuscripts are screened using professional plagiarism-detection software (e.g., **iThenticate / CrossRef Similarity Check**).

2.2. Manual Verification

Editors conduct manual reviews of flagged sections to assess:

- the nature of similarities,
- whether appropriate citations are present,
- whether similarity is due to technical terminology or unavoidable phrasing.

2.3. Acceptable Similarity Level

The journal does not enforce a strict numerical threshold; instead, similarity is evaluated **qualitatively**.

However, as a guideline:

- minor similarity from references, methods, or standard terminology is acceptable;
- large blocks of copied text, even if cited, are not acceptable;
- reused text exceeding 10–15% without proper attribution may require revision or be grounds for rejection.

3. Handling Suspected Plagiarism

All suspected plagiarism is handled following **COPE flowcharts**.

3.1. Before Acceptance

If plagiarism is detected during peer review or editorial assessment:

- the manuscript may be returned to authors for correction,
- authors must provide a detailed explanation and revised text,
- serious cases lead to **desk rejection**,
- evidence may be shared with authors' institutions in severe cases.

3.2. After Publication

If plagiarism is discovered post-publication:

- the journal will investigate,
- authors will be contacted for explanation,
- depending on severity, the outcome may include:
 - correction notice,
 - expression of concern,
 - retraction of the article.

Retractions follow COPE standards and remain permanently accessible.

4. Author Responsibilities

Authors must:

- ensure submitted work is entirely original,
- cite all sources appropriately,
- obtain permission for copyrighted materials,
- avoid excessive use of previously published text, even their own,
- ensure all co-authors are aware of the manuscript content.

5. Editor Responsibilities

Editors must:

- screen manuscripts for potential plagiarism,
- follow COPE procedures when concerns arise,
- communicate clearly with authors regarding issues,
- recuse themselves in case of conflicts of interest.

6. Reviewer Responsibilities

Reviewers are encouraged to:

- identify text overlap or suspicious similarities,
- notify the editor confidentially,
- avoid using unpublished material for personal purposes,
- review manuscripts objectively.

7. Penalties for Plagiarism

Depending on severity, the journal may apply:

- request for revision and corrections;
- rejection of the manuscript;
- prohibition of submission by the authors for a defined period;
- notification of authors' institutions or funders;
- retraction of a published article;
- reporting to COPE when appropriate.

Penalties are proportionate to the type and extent of ethical violation.

8. Exceptions and Clarifications

8.1. Standardized Language

Certain scientific terms, names, or methodological descriptions may resemble existing text due to their standardized nature. This is not considered plagiarism when unavoidable.

8.2. Reuse of Methods

Limited reuse of previously published methods may be acceptable **if properly cited** and rewritten to avoid copy-pasting.

8.3. Public-Domain or CC-BY Content

Content available under **CC BY licenses** may be reused **with attribution**.

Lack of attribution still constitutes plagiarism, even if reuse is legally permitted.

9. Transparency and Education

The journal supports:

- educating authors (especially early-career researchers) about ethical writing practices;
- providing guidance for proper citation and attribution;
- promoting responsible scholarship.

Conclusion

The journal maintains a zero-tolerance approach to plagiarism to protect scientific integrity and ensure trust in published work.

All participants—authors, reviewers, and editors—share responsibility in upholding the highest ethical standards.