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DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis* publishes manuscripts on scientific aspects of **data** on the **chemical composition of human foods**, with particular emphasis on actual data on composition of foods; **analytical methods**; studies on the manipulation, storage, distribution and use of food composition data; and studies on the **statistics**, use and distribution of such data and data systems. The Journal's basis is nutrient composition, with increasing emphasis on **bioactive non-nutrient** and **anti-nutrient** components. Papers must provide sufficient description of the food samples, analytical methods, quality control procedures and statistical treatments of the data to permit the end users of the food composition data to evaluate the appropriateness of such data in their projects.

The Journal does not publish papers on: microbiological compounds; sensory quality; aromatics/volatiles in food and wine; essential oils; organoleptic characteristics of food; physical properties; or clinical papers and pharmacology-related papers.

Features:

- Original research
- Short communications
- Critical reviews
- Study reviews
- Commentaries

Research Areas Include:

- New and rapid methods of analyses
- Nutrient, bioactive non-nutrient and anti-nutrient data
- Data on wild and under-utilized foods, including intra-varietal differences
- Computer technology and information systems theory directly relating to food composition database development, management, and utilization
- Processes of development and selection of single-value entries for food composition tables
- Quality control procedures and standard reference materials for use in the assay of food components
- Statistical and mathematical manipulations involved with the preparation and utilization of food composition data

Database coverage includes [AGORA](#), [AGRICOLA](#), [Biological Abstracts](#), [CAB ABSTRACTS](#), [CAB HEALTH](#), [Current Contents](#), [Dairy Science Abstracts](#), [Food Science and Technology Abstracts](#), [Foodline \(R\): Food](#)

Science and Technology, Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews, ScienceDirect, Scopus, and Vitis Viticulture and Enology Abstracts.

IMPACT FACTOR

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CAB Health
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

The *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis* publishes manuscripts on scientific aspects of data on the chemical composition of human foods, with particular emphasis on actual data on composition of foods; analytical methods; studies on the manipulation, storage, distribution and use of food composition data; and studies on the statistics, use and distribution of such data and data systems. The Journal's basis is nutrient composition, with increasing emphasis on bioactive non-nutrient and anti-nutrient components. Papers must provide sufficient description of the food samples, analytical methods, quality control procedures and statistical treatments of the data to permit the end users of the food composition data to evaluate the appropriateness of such data in their projects.

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- microbiological compounds;
- sensory quality;
- aromatics/volatiles in food and wine;
- essential oils;
- organoleptic characteristics of food;
- physical properties; or
- clinical papers or pharmacology-related papers.

Research may be published as Original Research Articles, Short Communications, Critical Reviews, Study Reviews, Reports or Commentaries, according to subject matter and presentation. Editor assignment will be made by the Managing Editor, but author guidance is appreciated. Only original papers will be considered. Manuscripts are submitted for review with the understanding that the same work has not been copyrighted, published, or submitted for publication elsewhere.

Types of paper

The following types of papers are published:

- **Original Research Articles** are complete reports of original, scientifically sound research. They must contribute new knowledge and be organized as described in this Guide. Please follow carefully the organization of the sections described in Article Structure (see below).

- **Short Communications** are brief reports of scientifically sound research, but of limited scope (for example, limited number of samples analysed), that contribute new knowledge. They may be preliminary reports of new findings, in which case the author is expected to publish complete findings later in an article.

- **Reviews** are papers which provide an analysis of a scientific or applied field, which include all important findings and bring together reports from a number of sources.

There are two categories of reviews:

Critical reviews provide a comprehensive, extensive review of a topic and a thorough referencing of the relevant literature. *Study reviews* provide an analysis of a selected number of published or unpublished studies.

Review articles may be invited by the Editor or the Editorial Board. Alternatively, potential authors considering the preparation of a Review article should contact the Editor to suggest the topic and its scope, providing an outline in the form of major headings and a summary statement. In any case, such articles are subject to the normal processes of peer review and revision.

- **Reports** are papers presenting the results of an expert consultation, or a scientific or regional committee, in the field of food composition and analysis.

- **Commentaries** are opinion pieces, focused on some scientific or applied aspect of food composition. They are informative, and may link diverse disciplines or address difficult implications or issues. Controversial commentaries are acceptable, as are ones expressing contrasting opinions. In most cases, these will be invited, but suggestions and unsolicited submissions will be considered by the Editor.

• **Symposium Papers** are special situations when a group of papers from a scientific meeting may be published together in a regular issue of the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*. In addition, there are scientifically specialized conferences and symposia on food composition, of two to three days duration, that may be published as a special issue or supplement. In all cases, the material must be original research or up-to-the minute reviews, of high quality and importance to the food composition community. To obtain approval, the convenor of the meeting, symposium or conference should contact the Editor outlining the symposium scope and the papers to be considered, with abstracts if available. On receipt of this information, the Editor will determine suitability of the material for a focused regular issue or special supplement. All manuscripts will be reviewed according to the Journal's standard review procedure.

Review Process

A peer review system is used to ensure high quality of manuscripts accepted for publication. The Editor-in-Chief and Editors have the right to decline formal review of the manuscript when it is deemed that the manuscript is 1) on a topic outside the scope of the Journal, 2) lacking technical merit, 3) fragmentary and provides marginally incremental results, 4) is poorly written or 5) is not innovative, or closely duplicates research previously published by the author. Manuscripts which meet the journal's criteria for scope, relevance and scientific quality will be sent for peer review to at least two qualified reviewers, assigned by the Editor. The review will be conducted against established criteria to determine technical quality. Reviewers each submit a recommendation regarding the merit of the manuscript, but the Editor provides the final decision on acceptance of the paper for publication.

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All manuscripts for *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis* should be submitted online via the Elsevier Editorial System (<http://ees.elsevier.com/jfca>).

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Authors must provide and use an email address unique to themselves and not shared with another author registered in EES, or a department.

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Introduction

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

Material and methods

Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

Under Materials and Methods, describe and cite where applicable sampling protocols, sample handling/preparation, and all experimental conditions and procedures (including quality control/quality assurance procedures), with sufficient clarity to permit qualified researchers to repeat the work. This section must include the number/size of samples collected, prepared and extracted, as well as number of analytical replicates per sample; and the statistical procedures/programs used to assess the work should be cited. A minimum of three individual samples must be analysed for each reported mean value, along with some indication of variability. When only one or two samples have been analysed, notwithstanding the number of replicates, authors should present the normal precision of their assays and then report the mean (without a standard deviation). Data must be reported to the appropriate number of significant digits for that precision and instrumental sensitivity.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Actual analytical data should be reported. For example, report nitrogen in addition to a calculated protein value, or define the nitrogen to protein ratio clearly under Materials and Methods and thereafter use protein. All factors used in calculations (e.g. energy), and all components used in aggregations (e.g. retinol equivalents), should be specified. Carbohydrate reported as "Total carbohydrate by difference" is not acceptable in Results or in tables; however, it may be used in discussions. Use of "crude fibre" is discouraged.

Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

Appendices

If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

The abstract (200 words maximum) must briefly summarize major findings and conclusions. Do not use statements such as " Results are discussed" . Many abstracting services use abstracts without modification, so this section should be able to stand alone and be comprehensible without the rest of the paper (do not refer to items in the reference list which will not accompany the abstract in some instances).

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Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point). You can view [example Highlights](#) on our information site.

Keywords

A minimum of 6-10 keywords must be listed. Authors should bear in mind that keywords allow the article to be found by Internet database search engines and considerably increase article citations when they are as numerous and comprehensive as possible.

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Acknowledgements

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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