



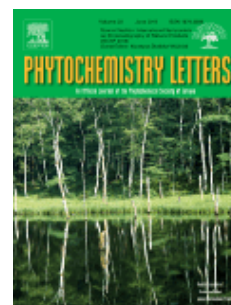
PHYTOCHEMISTRY LETTERS

An Official Journal of the [Phytochemical Society of Europe](#)

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK

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ISSN: 1874-3900

DESCRIPTION

Phytochemistry Letters invites rapid communications on all aspects of natural product research including:

- Structural elucidation of natural products
- Analytical evaluation of herbal medicines
- Clinical efficacy, safety and pharmacovigilance of herbal medicines
- Natural product biosynthesis
- Natural product synthesis and chemical modification
- Natural product metabolism
- Chemical ecology
- Biotechnology
- Bioassay-guided isolation
- Pharmacognosy
- Pharmacology of natural products
- Metabolomics
- Ethnobotany and traditional usage
- Genetics of natural products

Manuscripts that detail the isolation of just one new compound are not substantial enough to be sent out of review and are out of scope. Furthermore, where pharmacology has been performed on one new compound to increase the amount of novel data, the pharmacology must be substantial and/or related to the medicinal use of the producing organism.

For more details please follow this link: [IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS](#).

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Introduction

Phytochemistry Letters invites rapid communications on all aspects of natural product research including: structural elucidation of natural products, biotechnology, pharmacology of natural products, ethnobotany and traditional usage, genetics of natural products, analytical evaluation of herbal medicines, clinical efficacy, safety and pharmacovigilance of herbal medicines, bioassay-guided isolation, natural product synthesis and chemical modification, natural product biosynthesis, metabolomics, natural product metabolism and chemical ecology.

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Manuscripts that detail the isolation of just one new compound are not substantial enough to be sent out of review and are out of scope. Furthermore, where pharmacology has been performed on one new compound to increase the amount of novel data, the pharmacology must be substantial and/or related to the medicinal use of the producing organism.

Submissions from any field of natural product research are encouraged and the following list is not exhaustive:

- Structural elucidation of natural products
- Analytical evaluation of herbal medicines
- Clinical efficacy, safety and pharmacovigilance of herbal medicines
- Natural product biosynthesis
- Natural product synthesis and semi-synthesis
- Chemical ecology
- Biotechnology
- Bioassay-guided isolation
- Pharmacognosy
- Pharmacology of natural products
- Metabolomics
- Ethnobotany and traditional usage
- Natural product metabolism
- Genetics of natural products

Taxonomic issues - essential checklist

In the context of Phytochemistry Letters taxonomic issues need to be addressed in a variety of ways.

- It is general practice that voucher specimens should be deposited in a recognized herbarium. These voucher specimens need to be fully cited within the article (with collector, collector number and herbarium). In the case of lesser known plants, we encourage authors to include electronic scans of the specimens as part of their supplementary data.
- As an essential step, authors will have to check the taxonomic validity of the plant names using one of the international databases, and preferably <http://www.theplantlist.org>
- In future, such a check will be built into the submission and review process and authors will only be able to submit manuscripts, after the validation of the species' taxonomy.
- A particular problem are complex preparations, especially those containing plant extracts. Here detailed evidence on the authentication during the production needs to be ascertained. In addition fingerprints of the preparations tested are advisable.

•Very commonly these questions have been ignored in clinical studies of herbal preparations. The following two papers make it clear that a correct taxonomic nomenclature is an essential requirement in such studies:

Heinrich and Verpoorte, J. *Ethnopharmacol.* 2014, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2014.01.016>

Rivera et al J. *Ethnopharmacol.* 2014 <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2013.12.022>

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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.

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This subsection describes the source(s) and documentation of biological materials used, whether in reference to whole plants or parts there from, crude drugs, or any other 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.

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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. See later section for method of data presentation.

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For presentation of Optical Rotation data, Infrared Spectra data, NMR Spectral data and Mass Spectral data please see the full instructions to authors, including all special characters available for download as a pdf file. [pdf link](#)

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Elemental analysis results for compounds which have been adequately described in the literature must be given in the form: (Found: C, 62.9; H, 5.4. Calc. for C₁₃H₁₃O₄N: C, 63.2; H, 5.3%.) New compounds must be indicated by giving analytical results in the form: (Found: C, 62.9; H, 5.4. C₁₃H₁₃O₄N requires: C, 63.2; H, 5.3%.) Thin-layer chromatography

- (a) For analytical TLC, dimensions of the plates can be deleted if layer thickness is 0.25 mm.
- (b) Abbreviate common adsorbents: (but use silica gel, not SiO₂ as this does not describe the material accurately), Al₂O₃ (alumina).
- (c) Preparative forms of the technique should include details of (i) layer thickness (preparative TLC only), (ii) amount of sample applied to the layer, (iii) method of detection used to locate the bands and (iv) the solvent used to recover the compounds from the adsorbent after development.
- (d) Special forms of TLC on impregnated adsorbents can be abbreviated, e.g. AgNO₃-silica gel (1:9), by wt can be assumed.

Gas chromatography

- (a) Detector used should be specified, e.g. dual FID, EC, etc.
- (b) Carrier gas and flow rate should be given, e.g. N₂ at 30 ml min⁻¹.
- (c) Operating conditions, such as injector and detector heater temperatures etc., should be included.
- (d) Packed columns, e.g. 6 m x 3 mm (i.d. measurement only) packed with 1% SE-30 (support material and mesh size can be omitted unless unusual).
- (e) Capillary columns should be specified, e.g. WCOT (wall coated open tubular), SCOT (support coated open tubular). The split ratio used in the injection system and the injection volume for the sample should also be included.

High performance liquid chromatography

- (a) Solvent or solvent gradients used together with flow rate should be given.
- (b) Column dimensions (length x i.d. only) and packing used.
- (c) Method of detection employed, e.g. UV or refractive index.

Biochemical conventions

Unless a common biochemical term (e.g. ATP, NADH), biochemicals that are abbreviated should be spelled out in full (in brackets) immediately following their first usage in the text. Enzyme names are typically not abbreviated, unless there are accepted abbreviations, such as ATPase. Where possible, E.C. numbers should be used for enzymes, and the recommendations of the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) should be used (see below).

Enzyme characterization

- (a) Enzyme activity is expressed in units of katal (symbol kat), the conversion of one mol of substrate per sec. It should be made clear that the measurements were made under specified optimum conditions and were not seriously affected by losses during extraction and analysis.
- (b) pH optima should be given together with pH values for half maximal activity.
- (c) Kinetic parameters should be expressed as V_{max}, K_m etc.
- (d) Enzyme inhibitors-effectiveness should be expressed as K_i or concentration for half-maximal activity.
- (e) Optimal temperature of enzymes should not be given. This should be expressed in terms of "Energy of Activation" and "Energy of Activation for Denaturation".
- (f) Enzyme nomenclature is now given in "Enzyme Nomenclature, Recommendations", Academic Press (1992) (<http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iubmb>).
- (g) Labelling of proteins and nucleic acids-use of labelled precursors in assessing the rate of synthesis of macromolecules must be validated by evidence of real, direct incorporation. The possibility of occlusion or adsorption of isotopic material should be noted and it should be shown that the labelled precursor is incorporated without prior catabolism.

Protein and nucleotide sequences

The Experimental must contain explicit documentation of the ends of nucleotide probes used in the study if previously unpublished, or by appropriate reference to published nucleotide numbers and/or restriction map.

In manuscripts to be published in *Phytochemistry Letters*, any new protein and/or nucleotide sequence must have been submitted to EMBL, GenBank or DNA Data Bank of Japan databases, with designated accession number(s) obtained **prior** to paper acceptance by the Regional Editor. The Author(s) must ensure access to this database information by timely release of data prior to publication, as well as providing necessary documentation to those already in the databases.

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Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

Mettam, G.R., Adams, L.B., 2009. How to prepare an electronic version of your article, in: Jones, B.S., Smith, R.Z. (Eds.), *Introduction to the Electronic Age*. E-Publishing Inc., New York, pp. 281–304.

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Abbreviations

About, approximately: ca.

Anhydrous: dry (not anhyd.)

Aqueous: aq.

Circular dichroism: CD

Concentrated (or mineral acids): conc.

Concentrations: ppm (never ppb!), M, mM, μ M, %, mol

Dry weight: dry wt; fresh weight: fr. wt

Electricity: V, mA, eV

Force due to gravity (centrifugation): g; rpm (revolutions min⁻¹)

Gas chromatography: GC

Gas chromatography mass spectrometry: GC MS trimethylsilyl derivative: TMSi (TMS cannot be used as this refers to the internal standard tetramethylsilane used in ¹H NMR)

High performance liquid chromatography: HPLC

Infrared spectrophotometry: IR

Length: nm, m, mm, cm, μ m

Literature: lit.

Mass spectrometry: m/z [M]⁺ (molecular ion, parent ion)

Melting points: uncorr. (uncorrected)

Molecular mass: Da (daltons), kDa

Molecular weight: Mr

Nuclear magnetic resonance: ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, Hz, δ

Numbers: e.g. 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10,000: per or -1

Optical rotatory dispersion: ORD

Paper chromatography: PC

Precipitate: ppt.

Preparative thin-layer chromatography: prep. TLC

Radioactivity: dpm (disintegrations per min), Ci (curie), sp. act (specific activity), Bq (1 becquerel=1 nuclear transformation sec⁻¹)

Repetitive manipulations: once, twice, x3, x4, etc.

RRt (relative retention time), Rt (Kovat's retention index), ECL (equivalent chain length term frequently used in fatty acid work)

Saturated: satd.

Solution: soln.

Solvent mixtures including chromatographic solvents: abbreviate as follows n-BuOH HOAc H₂O (4:1:5)

Statistics: LSD (least significant difference), s.d. (standard deviation), s.e. (standard error)

Temperature: (with centigrade), mp, mps, mmp, bp

Temperature: temp.

Thin-layer chromatography: TLC, R_f

Time: s, min, h, day, week, month, year

Ultraviolet spectrophotometry: UV, A (absorbance, not OD optical density)

Volume: l (litre), l, ml

Weight: wt, pg, ng, g, mg, g, kg

Inorganics, e.g. AlCl₃ (aluminum chloride), BF₃ (boron trifluoride), Cr-, CO₂, H₂, HCl, HClO₄ (perchloric acid), HNO₃, H₂O, H₂O₂, H₂SO₄, H₃BO₃ (boric acid), He, KHCO₃ (potassium bicarbonate), KMnO₄ (potassium permanganate), KOH, K-Pi buffer (potassium phosphate buffer), LiAlH₄ (lithium aluminium hydride), Mg²⁺, MgCl₂, N₂, NH₃, (NH₄)₂SO₄, Na⁺, NaBH₄ (sodium borohydride), NaCl, NaIO₄ (sodium periodate), NaOH, Na₂SO₃ (sodium sulphite), Na₂SO₄ (sodium sulphate), Na₂S₂O₃ (sodium thiosulphate), O₂, P_i (inorganic phosphate), SO, Tris (buffer).

Organics, e.g. Ac₂O (acetic anhydride), n-BuOH (butanol), C₆H₆ (benzene), CCl₄ (carbon tetrachloride), CH₂Cl₂ (methylene chloride), CHCl₃ (chloroform), CH₂N₂ (diazo-methane), CM (carboxymethyl), DEAE (diethylaminoethyl), DMF (dimethylformamide), DMSO (dimethyl sulphoxide), EDTA (ethylene-diaminetetra-acetic acid), Et₂O (diethyl ether), EtOAc (ethyl acetate), EtOH (ethanol), HCO₂H (formic acid), HOAc (acetic acid), iso-PrOH (iso-propanol), Me₂CO (acetone), MeCOEt (methyl ethyl ketone), MeOH (methanol), NaOAc (sodium acetate), NaOMe (sodium methoxide), petrol (not light-petroleum or petroleum ether), PhOH (phenol), PrOH (propanol), PVP (polyvinylpyrrolidone), TCA (trichloroacetic acid), TFA (trifluoroacetic acid), THF (tetrahydrofuran). ¹H NMR solvents and standards: CDCl₃ (deuteriochloroform), D₂O, DMSO-d₆ [deuterodimethylsulphoxide, not (CD₃)₂SO], pyridine-d₅ (deuteropyridine), TMS (tetramethylsilane).

For further terms used in biochemistry and molecular biology the authors should see the websites of the nomenclature committees (<http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iubmb/>).

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