

Instructions to authors

Revista Brasileira de Farmacognosia

BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACOGNOSY

The Revista Brasileira de Farmacognosia (Brazilian Journal of Pharmacognosy) is a periodical dedicated to the publication of original scientific work, reviews and communications in the field of Pharmacognosy (the study of biologically active natural products).

GENERAL RULES

- All submitted manuscripts must not have been published. The simultaneous submission of manuscripts describing the same work to other journals is not recommended. The journal will accept contributions on the understanding that the author has obtained the necessary authority for publication. In the case of multiple authors, each author must inform the corresponding author that he/she consents to submission of the article to The Revista Brasileira de Farmacognosia.
- The Revista Brasileira de Farmacognosia accepts for publication original scientific work, reviews and communication articles written only in English. The content of the text is entirely the responsibility of the author(s), and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editor, Editorial Board or members of the Advisory Board.
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- The Revista Brasileira de Farmacognosia reserves the right to submit all received manuscripts to *ad hoc* referees, whose names will be kept confidential, and who will have the authority to decide on the pertinence for acceptance. Referees may return manuscripts to the Editor-in-Chief or Section Editors for transmission to the author(s) with suggestions for necessary alterations which are to be made to conform to the standards and editorial rules of the journal.
- All articles involving studies with humans or animals should have the approval and authorization of the Ethics Committees on Research on Human Beings or on Animals of the institutions to which the author(s) belong.
- All plant, microorganism and marine organism materials used in the described research should be supported by an indication of the site (including GPS coordinates, if possible) and country of origin, the name of the person identifying the biological material and the location of the voucher specimen.
- Authors should be prepared to provide documentary evidence that approval for collection was afforded from an appropriate authority in the country of collection and, if applicable, to follow the rules concerning the biodiversity rights.
- Manuscripts dealing with essential oils that contain seasonal harvest and biological activity and which explore mechanisms of action or synergism are welcome.
- The journal will not accept responsibility for research works that do not comply with the legislation of the country of residence of the author.
- We strongly recommend that authors avoid stating that the popular or traditional use of a certain herb was confirmed by pre-clinical, *in-vitro* or *in vivo* tests using animals.
- The following immediate rejection criteria apply
 - i. the manuscript does not fall into the areas of interest of the journal;
 - ii. manuscripts not formatted in accordance with the standards of the journal (see Section 3);
 - iii. the manuscript results are preliminary;
 - iv. manuscripts reporting activity data without comparison with a reference, without a positive control/appropriate control or not based on adequate statistics;
 - v. the biological source (*e.g.* plant, microorganism, marine organism etc.) is not clearly identified, authenticated and documented;
 - vi. experimental work on antioxidant activity of crude extracts without isolation, identification and content estimation of the active compounds;
 - vii. experimental work on antimicrobial activity with crude extracts without isolation and identification of the active compounds, with large MIC values ($\mu\text{g/ml}$) for antimicrobial activity ($\geq 250 \mu\text{g/ml}$ for plant extracts and $\geq 50 \mu\text{g/ml}$ for pure compounds) and without appropriate identification of culture collections/strain designation codes;
 - viii. experimental work on essential oils with only one sample of a single plant specimen with a single chromatographic analysis and without appropriate statistical analyses; without oil yield (%) and characterization and component quantification not undertaken using GC-MS-FID and analyses of the retention indices of the components not calculated using *n*-alkane homologous series together with analyses of some of the isolated natural components. Biological activity results without chemical characterization of the compounds.
 - ix. too preliminary data using *in-vitro* assays will not be acceptable if (i) no information on the type of activity is given; (ii) single dose or very high concentrations (must show dose-response studies); (iii) repetition of a simple bioassay (usually one assay with replicates); (iv) lack of appropriate controls (solvents; positive or negative substances according to the study); (v) no IC_{50} values (if applicable).
 - x. manuscripts with repetition of a single bioassay for yet another extract or plant;

- xi. use of only the brine shrimp assay (*Artemia salina*) to access the toxicity of extracts;
 - xii. isolation and bioassay of well-known compounds with small or no relationship to the activity, or to the medicinal use of the plant without clear justification;
 - xiii. manuscripts reporting pharmacological or biological activities of crude extracts without chemical and technical standardization.¹
- All plant, microorganism and marine organism materials used in the described research should be supported by an indication of the site (including GPS coordinates, if possible) and country of origin, the name

RULES FOR THE ELABORATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

- The author(s) should retain a copy (electronic and paper) of the submitted manuscript in the event of loss or damage to the original sent to the journal.
- Figures (photographs, charts, drawings etc.) and tables should be inserted close to the point at which they are discussed and numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. The respective captions should be clear, concise, with no abbreviations and located underneath the figures. If figures are from another font, formal authorization is required.
- Tables should be numbered consecutively using Arabic numerals. Tables (numerical data) should not be closed by side lines. The respective captions must be clear, concise, with no abbreviations and located above the table. There should be an indication of the approximate position in the text where tables should be placed.
- The captions of botanical illustrations (abbreviations of anatomical descriptions) should be in accordance with the rules adopted by the journal. Please request standards by email to revista@sbfgnosia.org.br.

TEXT FORMATTING AND CONTENTS OF THE WORK

- **Original papers:**
Original papers are research articles describing original experimental results. The manuscript should be arranged in the following order: Title, Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Material and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, Authorship, References, Figures with Legends, Tables and Structural Formulae. Results and Discussion sections may appear as a combined 'Results and Discussion' section. The normal length of the main text of an Original Paper (excluding references, tables, figures and figure legends) is approximately 3,000 words. Longer manuscripts may be accepted in exceptional and well-justified cases. If submitting such manuscripts, authors should provide a justification statement in the covering letter, giving compelling reasons for the length of the paper.
- **Brief communications:**
This section will cover mainly the isolation of known compounds from new neotropical sources, or complementary results of on-going work. The text should be arranged as follows: Title, Abstract of 200 words, Keywords, Introductory Remarks, Material and Methods with brief experimental details without subheadings, Results and Discussion as one body of text without

headlines, Acknowledgements, References (up to 20 citations) and Figures and/or Tables (up to 3). The text should not exceed 2,000 words.

- Reviews will, in general, be invited by the Editor-in-Chief and only those with more than 100 references will be considered. The main purpose of reviews is to provide a concise, accurate introduction to the subject matter and inform the reader critically of the latest developments in the field. They should be concise and not include experimental details.
- In addition to these Guidelines, a template (for original papers) and a sample covering letter are available at www.sbfgnosia.org.br/revista. Authors are strongly recommended to follow these formats when preparing a manuscript.
- The originals should be on A4-sized paper, double-spaced using Times New Roman size-12 font, fully justified, with margins of 2 cm.
- **Title and subtitle:**
They should be in lower case, using Times New Roman size-14 font, and in accordance with the contents of the article, taking in consideration the scope and objectives of the journal.
- **Authors:**
The authors' names should appear centred underneath the title. The first and last names should appear in full, followed by the initials of all other names (e.g. Carlos N. U. Silva). In the case of several authors, the names should be separated by commas.
- **Author affiliations:**
After each author name there should be superscript Arabic numerals indicating the institution to which they are affiliated. The list of institutions should appear immediately below the list of authors. The name of the corresponding author should be identified with a superscript asterisk indicating the address to which all correspondence should be sent. The electronic institutional address, telephone number and fax number of the main author should appear after the References. The journal will not publish commercial e-mail addresses.
- **Abstract:**
A brief and concise abstract of ≤ 300 words highlighting the most important information (including the methodology, results and conclusions) that allows readers to evaluate their interest in the article and thus avoiding reading of the entire work.
- **Keywords:**
Very important for database searches, thus validating the article. The authors should identify a maximum of six Keywords, in alphabetical order and separated by commas, to represent the content of the article.
- **Introduction:**
The Introduction should clearly establish the objectives of the work and its relationship with other works in the same field. Extensive literature reviews should be replaced by references of more recent publications, where these reviews have been published and where they are available.
- **Materials and methods:**
The description of the Material and the Methods used should be brief and sufficiently clear for comprehension and reproducibility of the work. Processes and techniques

¹Standardization of the plant extracts is considered to be the complete description of manufacturing parameters such as granulometry, solvent-plant ratio, time of extraction, solvent composition etc., together with marker quantification or chromatographic fingerprint analyses.

already published, unless extensively modified, should be referenced. Plant names should be complete, including author name and family, according to <http://www.tropicos.org>, <http://floradobrasil.jbrj.gov.br/2010/> or <http://www.theplantlist.org/> or

- **Results:**

The Results should be presented with minimum personal discussion or interpretation, and whenever possible, be accompanied by suitable tables and figures. The data, if pertinent, should be subjected to statistical analyses.

- **Discussion:**

The Discussion must be restricted to the significance of the data presented, avoiding conclusions not based upon them. Alternatively, at the discretion of the author, the Results and Discussion can be presented as one section.

- **Acknowledgements:**

This is an optional item. Please acknowledge anyone who made a substantial contribution towards the article.

- **Author contributions:**

The role of each author involved in the development of the study and/or the elaboration of the manuscript must be clearly described, and he/she should be referred to by his/her initials. Please see the template for examples available at www.sbfgnosia.org.br/revista.

REFERENCES

The formatting of the references should be standardised to conform to the requirements of the journal as outlined. Preferentially use references that can be accessed by the readers worldwide. Endnote® users, please see the template section available at www.sbfgnosia.org.br/revista to obtain the Endnote® style for RBFAR.

- References within the text: at the beginning of the citation: Author in lower case, followed by the publication year between parenthesis, e.g. Pereira (1999); at the end of the citation: Author in lower case and year, both between parenthesis. e.g. (Silva, 1999) or (Silva and Souza, 1998) or (Silva et al., 1999) or (Silva et al., 1995a,b); textual citation: the page must be provided, e.g. (Silva, 1999, p. 24).

- The references should be presented in alphabetical order by the last name of the first author, in lower case in ascending order of the publication date. Take into consideration the following possibilities:

- Article from a periodical: Title of the periodical in italics abbreviated conform Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index (<http://www.cas.org/sent.html> or <http://library.caltech.edu/reference/abbreviations/>). In the case of an authorised abbreviation of a certain periodical that cannot be located and is not obvious, the title should be cited complete (e.g.):

Kumar, D., Bhujbal, S.S., Deoda, R.S., Mudgade, S.C., 2010. *In-vitro* and *in-vivo* antiasthmatic studies of *Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb. on guinea pigs. J. Sci. Res. 2, 196-202.

In case the cited journal is not readily accessible, the Chemical Abstract Number can be quoted, as follows:

Qu, W., Li, J., Wang, M. 1991. Chemical studies on *Helicteres isora* L. *Zhongguo Yaoke Daxue Xuebao* 22, 203-206, apud Chemical Abstracts 116, 124855r.

In a citation, the sources should be shown in italics: Wax, E.T., 1977. Antimicrobial activity of Brazilian medicinal plants. J. Braz. Biol. Res. 41, 77-82, apud Nat. Prod. Abs. 23, 588-593, 1978.

- Book:

Costa, A.F., 1996. *Farmacognosia*. Lisboa: Calouste Gulbenkian.

- Book chapter:

El Sohly, M.A., Stanford, D.S., Murphy, T.P., 2007. Compounds properties and drug quality. In El Sohly, M.A. (org.) *Forensic Science and Medicine: Marijuana and the Cannabinoids*. New Jersey: Humana Press, p. 51-66.

- Thesis or dissertation materials:

Singab, A.N.B.I., 1996. *Phytochemical studies of some potential bioactive Egyptian plants*. Tokyo 173p. PhD Thesis, Meiji College of Pharmacy.

Romero, M.A.V., 1997. *Estudo químico de Brunfelsia hopeana Benth e do mecanismo de ação da escopoletina*. João Pessoa, 119p. Dissertação de Mestrado, Programa de Pós-graduação em Produtos Naturais, Uni-versidade Federal da Paraíba.

- Scientific meetings:

Oliveira, R.M.M.W., Lolli, L.F., Santos, C.A.M., 2006. Possible involvement of GABA benzodiazepine receptor in the anxiolytic-like effect induced by *Passiflora actinia* extracts in mice. 19th ECNP Congress. Paris, France.

- Patents:

Should be identified as indicated below; whenever possible the Chemical Abstracts Service number should be in-formed.

Ichikawa, M., Ogura, M., Lijima, T., 1986. Antiallergic flavones glycoside from *Kalanchoe pinnatum*. Jpn. Kokai Tokyo Koho JP 61,118,396, apud Chemical Abstracts 105, 178423q.

- Internet pages:

Taylor, L., 2000. Plant based drugs and medicines. <http://www.raintree.com/plantdrugs.htm>, accessed Oct 2009.

ABBREVIATIONS

Units will be in accordance with the International System (SI) as adopted by the 11th General Conference on Weights and Measures. Common abbreviations to be used are m (meter; cm (centimeter); mm (millimeter); µm (micrometer); nm (nanometer); kg (kilogram); g (gram); mg (milligram); µg (microgram); ng (nanogram); ml milliliter; µl (microliter); s (second); min (minute); h (hour); N (normal); M molar; mM (millimolar); µM (micromolar); SD (standard deviation); SE (standard error); X (mean); Ci (Curie); mp (melting point); bp (boiling point); TLC (thin-layer chromatography); GC (gas chromatography); NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance); MS (mass spectrometry); UV (ultraviolet); CD (circular dichroism); IR (infrared); *g* instead of rpm; ppm (parts per million); cpm (counts per minute); dpm (disintegrations per minute); Hz (Hertz); LD₅₀ (median lethal dose); LC₅₀ (median lethal concentration); TLV (threshold limit value). When using a word that is asserted to be a proprietary term or trademark, authors must use the symbol ®.

ILLUSTRATIONS

- The quality of the illustrations depends on the quality of the originals provided. Figures cannot be modified or enhanced by the production staff of the journal. The graphics must be submitted as part of the manuscript file. Contrast is important.
- Remove all colour from graphics, except for those graphics that author(s) would consider for publication in colour (see Costs section for details).

- Chemical structures are not considered as figures, should be numbered sequentially in bold letters according to their citations in the manuscript, and placed closed to the desired point in the manuscript body. Structures should be drawn according to the style set by the American Chemical Society. Preferences for the drawing of structures can be found as a pre-set style in appropriate software packages.
- Upload each figure in .tiff, .jpg or .eps format. The figure number and the top of the figure should be indicated. Lettering must be with Arial font of a reasonable size that will be clearly legible upon reduction and which is consistent within each figure and set of figures. If a key to symbols is required, please include this in the figure legend.
- The journal uses recycled paper, so colour pictures are accepted and will be available only online unless the author(s) agree to cover the extra expenses for the print publication irrespective of the number of pages of the article.

SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPTS

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- Important: All authors, with their respective email addresses, should be entered into the system.
- The qualification of the manuscript will be certified by at least two referees indicated by the Editorial Board.

PROCESSING FEE

- The journal charges nominal publication fee for articles upon acceptance to cover production cost.

- The charge is US\$ 200.00/paper when the corresponding author is a member of the Brazilian Society of Pharmacognosy and US\$ 300.00/paper for nonmembers. Articles with high scientific relevance will have reduced fee.
- A limited number of waivers for article processing charges are also available at the editors' discretion, and authors wishing to apply for these waivers should contact the editors.
- Editors and reviewers have no access to whether authors are able to pay; decisions to publish are only based on editorial criteria.

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