



Instructions for Authors

*Afr. J. Traditional,
Complementary and
Alternative Medicines*
www.africanethnomedicines.net

The **African Journal of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicines (AJTCAM)** provides rapid publication of papers on ethnomedicines and veterinary ethnomedicines. The Journal welcomes the submission of manuscripts that meet the general criteria of significance and scientific excellence. Papers will be published approximately two to three months after acceptance.

Electronic submission of manuscripts is strongly encouraged, provided that the text, tables, and figures are included in a single Microsoft Word file.

Submit manuscripts as e-mail attachment to the Editorial Office at: editor@africanethnomedicines.net or cadewumi@yahoo.com or cadewumi@oauife.edu.ng or ojewolej@ukzn.ac.za. A manuscript number will be mailed to the corresponding author same day or within three days.

The **cover letter** should include the corresponding author's full address and telephone/fax numbers and should be in an e-mail message sent to the Editor, with the file, whose name should begin with the first author's surname, as an attachment.

Starting from October 2004, the African Journal of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative medicines will accept manuscripts submitted as e-mail attachments. For all other correspondence that cannot be sent by e-mail, please contact the editorial office at: The Editor-in-Chief, Drug Research & Production Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

Article Types

Three types of manuscripts may be submitted:

Regular articles: These should describe new and carefully researched findings that have arisen from experimental procedures. The articles should be given in sufficient detail for others to verify the work. Authors should submit data that have arisen from animal and human studies in an ethically proper way by following guidelines as set by the World Health Organization. Papers that violate these principles will not be accepted.

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Short Communications: : A Short Communication is suitable for recording the results of complete small investigations or giving details of new models or hypotheses, chemical isolation and identification, innovative methods, techniques, clinical trials and epidemiological studies.

Reviews: Submissions of reviews and perspectives covering topics of current interest are welcome and encouraged. reviews are also peer-reviewed.

Review Process

All manuscripts are reviewed by an editor and members of the Editorial Board or qualified outside reviewers. Decisions will be made as rapidly as possible, and the journal strives to return reviewers' comments to authors within 2 weeks. It is the goal of the **AJT CAM** to publish papers within 12 weeks after submission.

Regular articles

All portions of the manuscript must be typed double-spaced and all pages numbered starting from the title page.

The **Title** should be as brief as possible describing the contents of the paper. The Title Page should include the authors' full names and affiliations, the name of the corresponding author along with phone, fax and E-mail information. Present addresses of authors should appear as a footnote.

The **Abstract** which should be included at the beginning of the manuscript should be informative and completely self-explanatory, briefly present the topic, state the scope of the experiments, indicate significant data, and point out major findings and conclusions. The Abstract should not be more than 250 words in length.. Complete sentences, active verbs, and the third person should be used, and the abstract should be written in the past tense.

Following the abstract, about 3 to 6 **key words** that will provide indexing references to should be listed.

A list of non-standard **Abbreviations** should be added. In general, non-standard abbreviations should be used only when the full term is very long and used often. Each abbreviation should be spelled out and introduced in parentheses the first time it is used in the text. Only recommended SI units should be used.

The **Introduction** should provide a clear statement of the problem, the relevant literature on the subject, and the proposed approach or solution. It should be understandable to colleagues from a broad range of scientific disciplines.

Materials and methods should be complete enough to allow experiments to be reproduced. However, only truly new procedures should be described in detail; previously published procedures should be cited, and important modifications of published procedures should be mentioned briefly. Capitalize trade names and include the manufacturer's name and address. Subheadings should be used. Methods in general use need not be described in detail.

Results should be presented with clarity and precision. The results should be written in the past tense when describing findings in the authors' experiments. Previously published findings should be written in the present tense. Results should be explained, but largely without referring to the literature. Discussion, speculation and detailed interpretation of data should not be included in the Results but should be put into the Discussion section.

The **Discussion** should interpret the findings in view of the results obtained in this and in past studies on this topic. State the conclusions in a few sentences at the end of the paper. The Results and Discussion sections can include subheadings, and when appropriate, both sections can be combined.

The **Acknowledgments** of people, grants, funds, etc should be brief.

Tables should be simple and kept to a minimum. Tables should be typed double-spaced throughout, including headings and footnotes. Each table should be on a separate page, numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals and supplied with a heading and a legend. Tables should be self-explanatory without reference to the text.

Figure legends should be typed in numerical order on a separate sheet. Graphics should be prepared using applications capable of generating high resolution GIF, TIFF, JPEG or Powerpoint before pasting in the Microsoft Word manuscript file. Tables should be prepared in Microsoft Word. Use Arabic numerals to designate figures and upper case letters for their parts (Fig 1). Begin each legend with a title and include sufficient description so that the figure is understandable without reading the text of the manuscript. Information given in legends should not be repeated in the text.

References: In the text, a reference identified by means of an author's name should be followed by the date of the reference in parentheses. When there are more than two authors, only the first author's name should be mentioned, followed by 'et al'. In

the event that an author cited has had two or more works published during the same year, the reference, both in the text and in the reference list, should be identified by a lower case letter like 'a' and 'b' after the date to distinguish the works.

Examples: Ojewole (2000), Adewunmi et al. (2003), (Kelebeni, 1983), (Addy, 1992), (Chege, 1998; Elujoba, 1987a,b; Tijani, 1993,1995), (Gamaniel et al., 2001). References should be listed at the end of the paper in alphabetical order. Articles in preparation or articles submitted for publication, unpublished observations, personal communications, etc. should not be included in the reference list but should only be mentioned in the article text (e.g., A. Elujoba, Obafemi Awolowo University, personal communication). Journal names are abbreviated according to Chemical Abstracts. Authors are fully responsible for the accuracy of the references.

Short Communications Short Communications are limited to a maximum of two figures and one table. They should present a complete study that is more limited in scope than is found in full-length papers. The items of manuscript preparation listed above apply to Short Communications with the following differences: (1) Abstracts are limited to 150 words and (2) Results and Discussion should be combined into a single section.

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