

10 Basic Rules for a Publication in *Planta Medica*

Manuscripts will not be considered for publication in *Planta Medica* unless the following conditions, if applicable, are fulfilled:

1. Ethical considerations: Submission of a manuscript to *Planta Medica* implies that it represents **original research** not previously published and that it is **not being considered for publication elsewhere**. Authors investigating the chemistry of a single species should aim to publish their results in a single manuscript rather than in a series of papers. **Manuscripts should not report fragmentary parts of a larger study.**

2. Language of publication is English. Manuscripts written by authors whose mother tongue is not English should be checked by a native speaker or a professional language editing service before submission.

3. Plant material (as well as other organisms) must be properly identified. The scientific name (in *italics*), the author of this name and the family must be given. It should be mentioned who identified the material. The manuscript must include references to **voucher specimens** of the plants (deposited in a major regional herbarium) or the material examined.

4. Isolation of compounds: Extraction and isolation should be described in detail. The kind and amount of material, solvents and extraction methods must be indicated. The description of chromatographic systems should contain the quantitative information that allows the reader to repeat the work. Column dimensions, elution volumes, fraction sizes, etc. should be reported.

5. Analytical studies: Key data on method validation must be provided and should typically include information on specificity, linearity, limit of detection, limit of quantification, accuracy, precision, intermediate precision, and some robustness studies. Information on the purity of reference compounds, and on the methods used for the determination of purity must be given. Recoveries of extraction and sample pre-purification steps have to be indicated. Adequate statistical treatment of data is required. Analytical studies of a routine nature will not be considered for publication.

6. Pharmacological investigations of extracts require detailed extract characterisation. Chromatographic profiling (e.g. HPLC profile with at least the major peaks identified) should be carried out, or qualitative and quantitative information on active or typical constituents should be provided.

7. Pharmacological investigations: *Planta Medica* will only consider manuscripts in which conclusions are based on adequate statistics. In each case **positive controls** (reference compounds) should be used and the dose/activity dependence should be shown.

8. Pharmacological investigations: When working with **experimental animals**, reference must be made to principles of laboratory animal care or similar regulations, and to approval by the local ethical committee. The approval number and the corresponding date must be provided.

9. Clinical studies must be designed, implemented and analyzed in a manner to meet current standards of randomised controlled trials. Reference must be made to approval of the study by the local ethical committee. The approval number and the corresponding date must be provided.

10. Biological screening: Papers dealing with the biological screening of a meaningful number of extracts of plants or other organisms can be considered for publication in *Planta Medica*. Identification of the material must be properly documented, and preparation of the extracts must be clearly described. Biological activities should be reported by listing IC₅₀ values, or at least a dose-response relationship should be shown by using at least two test concentrations. Positive controls (reference compounds) must be included. Results should be presented in a concise format, and the discussion should be kept to a minimum.