

Guidelines for Authors

Planta Medica encourages the submission of manuscripts that have been deposited in an initial draft version in preprint repositories such as Research Square, arXiv, and medRxiv. Drafts of short conference abstracts or degree theses posted on the website of the degree-granting institution, and draft manuscripts deposited on authors' or institutional websites are also welcome. All other prior publication is forbidden.

During submission, authors should (1) note use of the preprint repository in the cover letter, (2) state what adjustments and/or updates the draft has undergone between deposition and submission and (3) cite the preprint, including the DOI, as a reference in the manuscript.

After submission to the journal, and until a final decision has been made, authors are discouraged from depositing versions of their manuscript as preprints. Upon publication authors should add a link from the preprint to the published article. Twelve months after publication, authors can update the preprint with the accepted manuscript.

1. Editorial Policy

1.1 Aims and Scope

PLANTA MEDICA covers the following areas of medicinal plant and natural product research:

- Experimental, preclinical and clinical pharmacology as well as toxicology
- Biological activities, chemical ecology, chemical biology of natural products
- Natural product chemistry and analytical studies
- Medicinal plant research
- Drug discovery *in silico* approaches in natural product research

Contributions are not normally considered for publication and will be immediately rejected if:

- The manuscript does not fall into any of the above areas
- Activity data are reported without comparison to a recognized positive control
- Extracts have not been characterized by analysis of their major constituents (e.g. HPLC, GC, NMR)
- Predictable bioactivity is reported (e.g. antioxidant properties of phenolic compounds)

1.2 General terms of publication

Only papers of highest scientific quality, concisely written and complying with these Guidelines for Authors can be considered for publication. All contributions are peer-reviewed by independent referees.

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.

The corresponding author must declare that the manuscript is submitted on behalf of all authors. Copyright belongs to the publisher upon acceptance of the manuscript.

Important: Publication in *Planta Medica* is free of charge.

The language of publication is English. British or American spelling is accepted, but should be consistent throughout the manuscript. **Important: Incorrect English can result in the immediate rejection of your manuscript whereas correct English will facilitate a speedy publication process. It is in your own interest to ensure that your paper has been read by a native English speaker; alternatively, you should use a copy-editing service like "ENAGO" if you have concerns about the English in your manuscript. Please note that Thieme authors are entitled to a 20% discount at ENAGO (go to enago.com/thieme for more information and to qualify for the discount).** Manuscripts which do not meet acceptable standards will be returned to the authors.

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.

Pharmacological investigations of extracts require detailed extract characterization (see 4.7.7).

Submission of a manuscript signifies acceptance of the journal's Guidelines for Authors. Submissions which are not in line with these principles will be returned directly to the authors by the Editorial Office.

A statement clarifying the **conflicts of interests of all authors** must be included at the end of the manuscript (before the references); this will be published. Conflicts of interest also need to be declared during the submission process. Declaration of conflicts of interest is mandatory; if none, this also needs to be stated.

Authors' Contributions: You will be asked to detail each author's contribution to the manuscript/research during the submission process. Failure to do so will lead to serious delays in processing your manuscript.

Planta Medica takes biodiversity and the protection of species very seriously. We support CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) as well as The Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity and we expect that during the conduct of the scientific research leading up to the results submitted to *Planta Medica* these conventions as well as the local rules and regulations have been adhered to.

2. Submission of Manuscripts

Manuscripts can be submitted exclusively online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/plamed>. Submissions of hardcopy manuscripts or by e-mail will not be accepted.

A sample manuscript (for Original Papers) is available at <https://www.thieme.de/de/planta-medica/140866.htm>. In addition to the Guidelines, authors are urged to follow these formats when preparing a manuscript.

Commonly used file formats (DOC, DOCX, RTF) should be used for preparation of the manuscripts. **PDF files are not accepted.** The manuscript has to be accompanied by a **cover letter**, in which the authors briefly explain the significance of their findings and the interest to the readership of Planta Medica.

The manuscript (main text, including tables) should be submitted as one file. All figures should be submitted separately (detailed layout requirements see 4.12.). Authors are strongly encouraged to provide non-essential but useful data, figures and tables as Supporting Information (see 4.14).

N. B. Molecule/Structure Check

Planta Medica cooperates with CSEARCH, a user-friendly service that allows you to check your structures and perform similarity checks in a data base of more than 235 million spectra.

PLEASE USE THIS SERVICE FOR THE FOLLOWING USE CASES BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER TO PLANTA MEDICA.

- You have a ^{13}C -NMR spectrum and would like to get structure proposals for your peaklist: [Spectral Similarity Search](#)
- You have a ^{13}C -NMR spectrum and a proposal for the structure and want to know whether they actually match: [CSEARCH Robot Referee](#)

3. Types of Contribution

3.1. Original Papers are research articles describing original experimental results. The material should be arranged in the order: **Title Page/Abstract/Key words/Abbreviations/Introduction/Results and Discussion/Materials and Methods/Acknowledgements/Conflicts of Interest/References/Figure Legends/Tables.** Figures should be uploaded as separate files (see section 4.12., **Graphics**). Results and Discussion sections may appear as two separate parts or 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 **< 4,000 words**. **Original papers should not contain more than 45 references.**

3.2. Review articles are welcome and Planta Medica explicitly encourages submission of reviews. They should be as concise as possible and do not need to include experimental details. 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 this area. Please follow the instructions (below) closely.

4. Preparation of Manuscripts

Please note that papers published in Planta Medica follow the **IRDMACR** structure:

Introduction, Results and Discussion, Materials and Methods, Acknowledgements, Conflict of Interest Statement, References. In addition to the Guidelines, authors should consult the sample manuscript (for Original Papers) at <https://www.thieme.de/de/planta-medica/140866.htm> prior to preparing their contribution.

Commonly used file formats (DOC, DOCX, RTF) should be used for preparation of the manuscripts.

For submission of all manuscripts, follow the instructions of the on-line submission system. For general instructions on ScholarOne, please follow this link: <http://mchelp.manuscriptcentral.com/gethelpnow/training/author/>

Before submission, prepare the cover letter, and keep ready all information on the manuscript (title, full name and affiliation of all authors, abstract, name of all files to be submitted). The author submitting the manuscript will be corresponding author.

4.1. The Title Page must contain the title of the manuscript (**title should not exceed 20 words**), the full names referenced by numerical superscripts with affiliation and addresses of all authors, and the full address of the corresponding author, including e-mail, phone, and FAX number.

4.2. The Abstract should contain brief information on purpose, methods, results and conclusion (without subheadings). **Abstracts should not exceed 250 words.** Please note that during the upload of the manuscript files you will be asked to insert the abstract. This abstract needs to be identical to the abstract in the manuscript file itself.

4.3 The Key words should include the scientific name and family of the organism(s) investigated (as separate key words). 4–6 key words should be listed.

4.4. Abbreviations should generally be used sparingly. Abbreviations should be introduced only when repeatedly used. **Standard abbreviations** such as m. p., b. p., K, s, min, h, μL , mL, μg , mg, g, kg, nm, mm, cm, ppm, mmol, HPLC, TLC, GC, UV, CD, IR, MS, NMR, ELISA, PCR can be used throughout the manuscript (for a more extensive list follow this link: https://www.thieme.de/statics/dokumente/thieme/final/de/dokumente/zw_thieme-en/Planta-Abbreviations-2018-07.pdf). **Non-standard abbreviations** must be defined in the text following their first use. Provide a list of **all nonstandard abbreviations** after the key words. Define all symbols used in equations and formulas. If symbols are used extensively, provide a list of all symbols together with the list of abbreviations.

4.5. The Introduction should state the purpose of the investigation and relate to current knowledge in the specific topic addressed.

4.6. Results should be presented in a concise manner. The **Discussion** should provide an interpretation of the data and relate them to existing knowledge. The discussion should not be a repetition of the results. **Results and Discussion** may be combined. **No subheadings are allowed within these sections.** There should be no separate conclusions paragraph, the conclusion should be incorporated into the discussion.

4.7. In Materials and Methods specific details about test materials and test compounds, instrumentation and experimental protocols should be given. This section should contain sufficient details so that others are able to reproduce the experiment(s). Purity (%) of all reference and standard compounds should be mentioned, as well as the method of how it was determined. Previously reported methods should be referenced only. Suppliers for major equipment, cell lines, chemicals, biochemical reagents and major disposables should be indicated. It should read in the manuscript for example “Quercetin (purity > 98%) was purchased

from Sigma” and **not** “was purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, USA)”.

4.7.1. Documentation of plants and other organisms or starting materials. Use the correct scientific nomenclature. For plants, the International Plant Name Index (IPNI, <https://ipni.org/>), and/or the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (<https://www.iapt-taxon.org/nomen/main.php>) or World Flora Online (<https://www.worldfloraonline.org/>) should be followed. Give the scientific name (in italics), the author of this name and the family. **Indicate the person who identified the material as well as date and place of collection.** The manuscript must include references to **voucher specimens** of the plants (deposited in a major regional herbarium) or the material examined including their registration number(s). It should be mentioned which plant parts have been used.

4.7.2. Description of the preparation of extracts and isolation of compounds. The kind and amount of starting material, solvents (including volumes) and extraction methods (including temperature and extraction time) must be indicated. The description of chromatographic systems should contain the quantitative information that allows the reader to repeat the work. Column dimensions, stationary phase, particle size, mobile phase composition, flow rate, sample amount, and elution volumes (or retention times, k' values) of fractions should be given. E.g.: “MPLC on silica gel (40–63 μ m; 2 \times 50 cm), MeOH/EtOAc 8: 2, 3 mL/min; tR of 1: 60–70 mL, 2: 120–140 mL, 3: 145–175 mL; detection of eluates by TLC (SiO₂, MeOH/H₂O 9: 1; Dragendorff reagent), R_f 1: 0.35, 2: 0.55, 3: 0.73).” When using gradients the volumes of solvents should be presented; fractions should be defined by their elution volume. Similar information is necessary for HPLC, GLC, DCCC, MLCC and all other methods of purification. Figures of chromatograms will only be accepted if they are essential for understanding the methods or the results described. GC identifications of constituents of essential oils must be supported by retention indices on a polar and an apolar column. Identification by GC-MS is preferred.

4.7.3. Chemical nomenclature used should be based on the systematic rules adopted by Chemical Abstracts and IUPAC. Trivial names should be avoided unless they are definitely advantageous over the corresponding systematic names. Trivial names are not accepted for close analogues and derivatives of known compounds. For reference drug substances the INN names should be used.

4.7.4. Physico-chemical characterisation of compounds. Data provided for new compounds should enable an unambiguous identification of the substance and have to appear in the following order, if available: visual appearance, chromatographic mobility in TLC, GC, or HPLC, mp, UV-vis, specific optical rotation, CD, IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, low resolution MS, high resolution MS, elemental analysis. Note that for specific optical rotation $[\alpha]_D$ temp, the symbol c is defined as mass of substance (in g) in 100 mL of solution. For specific optical rotation no unit should be given; the “degree” symbol “°” should not be used. In case of spectroscopic work on known substances refer, if possible, to published data; the manuscript should then contain the following indication: Copies of the original spectra are obtainable from the corresponding author. Original spectra for new compounds should be provided

as Supporting Information (see 4.14), IR, NMR, mass, and UV spectra should normally not be given in the manuscript as figures, unless the listing of characteristic signals is not sufficient.

4.7.5. X-Ray crystallographic data must include a line drawing of the structure, a perspective drawing, and a discussion of bond lengths and angles. A supplement describing full details of the structure and methods and means of its determination in a form suitable for deposition must be submitted to the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: +44 (0) 1223 33 60 33 or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk). Deposition of the data has to be prior to submission of the manuscript, and appropriate reference has to be made in the Materials and Methods section, including the deposition number.

4.7.6. 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. For more information regarding validation issues, prospective authors should also refer to ICH guidelines. Analytical studies of a routine nature will not be considered for publication.

4.7.7. Pharmacological investigations. *Planta Medica* will only consider manuscripts in which conclusions are based on adequate statistics that incorporate the appropriate tests of significance, account for the type of data distribution, and are based on the number of experimental observations required for the application of the respective statistical method. In each case, positive controls (reference compounds) have to be used and the dose-activity dependence should be shown. If IC₅₀ values are given, the dose-response relation should be displayed graphically at least as supplementary data, and the method of calculation should be given. Authors should be conscious of the differences between EC₅₀, IC₅₀, TC₅₀, LC₅₀, ED₅₀, LD₅₀ values. Compounds should follow accepted guidelines when represented as “active”. For example, the cytotoxic effect of a pure substance when tested against a cancer cell line would exhibit an IC₅₀ value of < 10 μ M. Authors should pay attention to the following definitions: Compounds that suppress the growth of, or kill, isolated tumor cell lines grown in culture should be referred to as either “cytostatic” or “cytotoxic”, as appropriate. Only compounds that inhibit the growth of tumors in animal-based models should be called “antitumor”. The term “anticancer” should be reserved for compounds that show specific activity in human-based clinical studies.

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 protocol approval number and the exact date of approval (e.g. January 1st 2016) must be provided.**

Pharmacological investigations of extracts require detailed extract characterization. This includes botanical characterization of plant material, solvent(s), duration and temperature of extraction, plus other method(s) used for preparation(s). For starting material coming from a company/commercially obtained samples the batch/lot number has to be provided. The drug to extract ratio

(DER) must be given. Chromatographic profiling (e.g. HPLC profile with a reference compound recorded at different wavelengths) should be carried out, with at least the major peaks identified, or qualitative and quantitative information on active or typical constituents should be provided. Altogether the phytochemical standardization of an extract and/or fraction(s) requires state-of-the-art methods.

4.7.8. 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 should properly be documented, and preparation of the extracts should clearly be described (see above, sections 4.7.1 and 4.7.7). Biological activities should be reported by listing IC_{50} or EC_{50} values, or a dose-response relationship should be shown by using at least two test concentrations. Positive controls (reference compounds) should be included. Results should be presented in a concise format, and the discussion should be kept to a minimum.

4.7.9. Western Blots. Whole uncropped images of all replicates of Western Blots (including molecular weight markers) must be submitted as supplementary data.

4.8. Acknowledgements should list persons who made minor contributions to the investigation and organisations providing support.

4.9. Conflict of Interest Disclosure. A statement describing any financial conflicts of interest or lack thereof is published with each manuscript. The statement should describe all potential sources of bias, including affiliations, funding sources, and financial or management relationships, that may constitute conflicts of interest (please see the ACS Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research). The statement will be published in the final article. If no conflict of interest is declared, the following statement will be published in the article: **"The authors declare no conflict of interest."**

4.10. References, including those in tables and figure legends, should be numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text, using arabic numbers between square brackets, e.g. [1]; for multiple references, e.g. [1–3] or [1,2,5]. The list of references should be arranged consecutively according to the numbers in the text. Use Index Medicus abbreviations for journal titles. Authors bear complete responsibility for the accuracy of the references. **Original Research articles should not have more than 45 references.**

The following examples illustrate the format for references:

a) Journals

Trute A, Nahrstedt A. Separation of rosmarinic acid enantiomers by three different chromatographic methods and the determination of rosmarinic acid in *Hedera helix*. *Phytochem Anal* 1996; 7: 204–208

Article in press **without** doi:

Lim EK, Ashford DA, Hou B, Jackson RG, Bowles DJ. Arabidopsis glycosyltransferases as biocatalysts in fermentation for regioselective synthesis of diverse quercetin glucosides. *Biotech Bioeng* [in press]

Note: If reference is made to papers that are in press, authors are requested to add the galley proof or acceptance letter to the on-line submission. Avoid references to unpublished personal communications. These have to be included in the body of the text as "unpublished data".

Article in press **with** doi:

Lim EK, Bowles DJ. A class of plant glycosyltransferases involved in cellular homeostasis. *EMBO J* 2004. doi:10.1038/sj.emboj.7600295

b) Books

Citation to complete book:

Mabberley DJ. *The Plant Book*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 1997: 520–521

Citation to article within a book:

Lechtenberg M, Nahrstedt A. Cyanogenic Glycosides. In: Ikan R, ed. *Naturally occurring Glycosides*. Chichester: Wiley & Sons; 1999: 147–191

Lorberg A, Hall MN. TOR: the first ten Years. In: Thomas G, Sabatini DM, Hall MN, eds. *TOR – Target of Rapamycin*. Heidelberg: Springer; 2004: 1–18

Multi-volume books and encyclopedias:

Warren SA. Mental Retardation and Environment. In: *International Encyclopedia of Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Neurology*, Vol. 7. New York: Aesculapius Publishers; 1977: 202–207

Pharmacopoeia of China, Part 1. Beijing: People's Health Press; 1977: 531–534

c) PhD and Diploma Theses

Dettmers JM. Assessing the trophic cascade in reservoirs: the role of an introduced predator [Dissertation]. Columbus: Ohio State University; 1995

d) Patents

Cookson AH. Particle trap for compressed gas insulated transmission system. US Patent 4554399; 1985

e) Conference Paper

Okada K, Kamiya Y, Saito T, Nakagawa T, Kaawamukai M. Localization and expression of geranylgeranyldiphosphate synthases in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Physiologists, Baltimore, MD; 1999

f) Electronic Sources

Agatep R, Kirkpatrick RD, Parchaliuk DL, Woods RA, Gietz RD. Transformation of *S. cerevisiae* by the lithium acetate/single-stranded carrier DNA/polyethylene glycol protocol. Technical tips online. Available at <http://research.bmn.com/tto>. Accessed September 22, 2005

If no author is given, the title is used as the first element of the citation.

4.11. Chemical structures should be prepared with ChemDraw or a similar program using the following settings: bond lengths 0.508 cm, bond width 0.021 cm, bold bond width 0.071 cm, bond spacing 18% of length, hash spacing 0.088 cm, atom labels Arial 10, compound numbers Arial 10 bold. These settings correspond to American Chemical Society document settings preset in ChemDraw. The configuration of all stereocenters present should be indicated; use of bold and dashed lines rather than solid and dashed wedges is recommended. **They will be reproduced without reduction and the charts should be prepared with maximum widths of up to 8.5 cm for single column print and up to 17.5 cm for double column print.**

Authors using other drawing packages should modify their program's parameters so that they reflect the above guidelines.

4.12. Graphics: Figures are numbered with Arabic numerals. Panels within figures should be labelled in lower case letters and semi-bold font, e.g. a, b. Please place the letters in the lower left-hand corner. The quality of the illustrations depends on the quality of the originals provided. Graphics cannot be modified or enhanced by the journal production staff. **The graphics must be submitted as separate files. The legend should not appear under the figures but should be included as a separate figure legend after the references in the manuscript file.** The figure legend needs to be self-explanatory.

Acceptable file formats are TIFF and EPS. Please upload the figures separately as high resolution TIFF files (at least 300 dpi which means at least 648 pixels width for single-column). TIFF files can be compressed by lossless compression such as LZW. Labeling of all figure parts should be present, and the parts should be assembled into a single graphic.

Please submit your graphics in color (300 dpi).

For efficient use of journal space, single-column illustrations are preferred.

| | Single (preferred) | Double |
|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Width | | |
| minimum | 5.5 cm (2.16 in) | 11.5 cm (4.5 in) |
| maximum | 8.5 cm (3.33 in) | 17.5 cm (7 in.) |
| Maximum depth | 25.4 cm (10 in.) | 25.4 cm (10 in.) |

For best results, illustrations should be submitted in the actual size at which they should appear in the journal. Consistently sized letters and labels in graphics throughout the manuscript will help ensure consistent graphic presentation for publication. Lettering should be no smaller than 7 points. (Arial type works well for lettering.) Lines should be exactly 0.5 point. Lettering and lines should be of uniform density. If artwork that should be reduced must be submitted, larger lettering and thicker lines should be used so that, when reduced, the artwork meets the above-mentioned parameters.

Complex textures and shading to achieve a three-dimensional effect should be avoided. Different grey scale tones to show group differences are preferred.

4.13. Tables: These should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals. Tables should be placed in the manuscript after the

figure legends. Footnotes in tables should be given lowercase letter designations and be cited in the table by italic superscript letters. The sequence of letters should proceed by line rather than by column. If a footnote is cited both in the text and in a table, insert a lettered footnote in the table to refer to the numbered footnote in the text.

Each table should be provided with a descriptive heading, which, together with the individual column headings, should make the table, as nearly as possible, self-explanatory. Arrangements that leave many columns partially filled or that contain much blank space should be avoided. **The table legend should appear directly under the tables.**

4.14. Supporting Information: To keep articles as concise and at the same time as informative as possible, authors are strongly encouraged to submit part of their tables and figures as Supporting Information. The following type of data will be preferentially published as Supporting Information rather than in the print article: Spectra, chromatograms, structural drawings outlining NMR correlations, experimental procedures of secondary importance, tables summarizing data that are non-quintessential but useful to the understanding of an article. Tables, figures and text provided as Supporting Information must be referred to in the manuscript as follows: (Table 1S, Supporting Information, etc.). The cover page for Supporting Information should be identical to the cover page of the manuscript. Legends for Figures and Tables must appear directly on the respective figure pages. Pages have to be numbered consecutively. All figures and tables should be referenced in the main manuscript. Supporting Information has to be submitted as a separate file.

Supporting Information is published on the journals homepage at <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/issue/eFirst/10.1055/s-00000058>.

4.15. Videos: The following formats are acceptable: *.avi, *.mov and *.mpg. The maximum length of the clip should not exceed four minutes. Please include an image of the video for publication in the print version of the article. A legend of no more than 40 words per video or per sequence is required (it should also be included in the main document).

5. Research Ethics

All research submitted to Planta Medica needs to comply with the Thieme Journal Policy on research ethics:

<https://www.thieme.com/en-us/journal-policies#3>.

If research was performed on genetic resources (plants, micro-organisms, animals, etc.) to which the Nagoya Protocol (Regulation (EU) No 511/2014) applies, proof of an internationally recognized certificate of conformity with this regulation needs to be provided upon submission. If genetic engineering, animal testing or research with narcotic substances was performed, authors must provide proof of permission by the local authorities (registration number and the name of issuing authority).

6. Instructions for Reviews

5.1. There are two **major goals** in writing a review article: to concisely summarize and, most importantly, to critically discuss the latest findings on a specific topic.

5.2. Both the **scientific achievements** and the **gaps in our knowledge** should be pointed out clearly.

5.3. A review must provide **interesting and illuminating insights** to the reader.

5.4. The **quality, validity, scientific soundness and conclusions** of the studies reviewed in the primary literature section **need to be evaluated very critically**. When it comes to pharmacological activities of extracts or compounds, this means that the authors should, for example, scrutinise the relevance of the animal or cell system used, the dosage/concentration applied but also evaluate the controls and the time points.

5.5. A review article must have an **introductory section** that covers the relevant background and details its **objectives**.

5.6. The **search strategy** for a specific topic must be clearly stated in the introduction: as a minimum, authors should give the search words or terms applied, the database(s) used and the years of publication the search was limited to.

5.7. Well-known general facts (textbook knowledge) and aspects which are either obvious or marginal must be avoided.

5.8. Language is a very important concern and manuscripts must have been thoroughly edited before submission. Manuscripts written in bad English will be immediately sent back for improvement. Only review articles in adequate English will be considered for peer review.

5.9. Chemical structures included as figures must have been drawn by the authors themselves using a scientifically accepted software and in accordance with the general author instructions of Planta Medica. Copying structures from web pages or other resources is not permitted.

NB: A review article is not simply a list of previously published research. The heart of a review is its **critical assessment of the current state of knowledge** as well as the **discussion** of the findings and the **conclusions** drawn from them.

5.10. Abstract:

5.10.1. Please prepare an abstract of max. 250 words. Do not use subheadings.

5.10.2. The abstract must state the specific aim(s) and objective(s) of the review and must end with an overall conclusion drawn for the evaluated primary studies.

7. Publication of Manuscripts immediately upon Acceptance

Planta Medica offers its authors the option to have their manuscripts published immediately upon acceptance (if the publication preference Open Access is chosen, the manuscript gets published only after payment of the APC has been confirmed).

This means that the unedited, unformatted version of the manuscript as it stands after peer review is published online, with a DOI. Authors wishing to make use of this service will be asked to upload “clean” versions of their manuscripts after every revision; this is a precondition for this service, as is the confirmation that the Copyright Transfer Agreement (CTA) will be signed upon receipt.

This service is offered for Original articles and Reviews.

Implications of “accepted manuscript” publication

Once the paper has been accepted, the last clean version of the manuscript, including all metadata entered during submission (title, abstract, author affiliations etc.), becomes the first version of the article to be published online. This means that no changes can be made to the submitted clean version as this version will be published as the “Accepted Manuscript”, should it be accepted. Changes by the authors will only be possible subsequently in the proofs from the typesetters for correction. This means in detail:

- For all authors, the affiliation information entered **during submission** will be published.
- If an author is already in the system, please use “Edit” to update the address information if necessary.
- To facilitate the entry of co-author information, please use the “Quick Fill” option if applicable.
- The order of authors entered during submission will be the order of authors on the “Accepted Manuscript”.
- All authors named under step “Authors & Institutions” agree to the publication and signing of the CTA.
- The conflict of interest and funding information will be published as entered at the step “Details & Comments”.
- Clinical trial information will be published as entered at the step “Details & Comments”.

Instructions and further information are available during the submission process and upon request to the Editorial Office.

8. Proofs and Reprints

Galley proofs will be sent to the corresponding author as a PDF file. An electronic author reprint will be supplied free of charge after online publication.