Statement on Publishing Ethics

Intellectual Dishonesty and Plagiarism
As a leading international scientific journal, *Aerobiologia* is deeply committed to the practice of intellectual honesty in all dealings. Infractions against generally acceptable standards for research and publication of results are taken very seriously. Examples of such infractions include, but are not limited to:

Fabrication/falsification: making up research findings or manipulating research data with the intention of giving a false impression.

Plagiarism: representing the thoughts, words, ideas, discoveries or data of another as one’s own original work. Examples of plagiarism include:
- Paraphrasing or verbatim (or nearly verbatim) copying of the work or part of the work of another, either published or unpublished, without proper citation.
- Paraphrasing or copying from your own work, which has previously been published, without proper citation.
- Using directly quoted material without including quotation marks.
- Modifying figures or tables without crediting the original source.
- Recycling someone else’s text by simply changing a word or number here or there, either trivially or to reflect your situation, and presenting this as if it were your own words.
- Reusing so much text, even if cited, that the article becomes a patchwork mosaic of other people’s words, with little of the author’s own words.

‘Forgetting’ to cite and quote properly is not an excuse. Authors should take great care when using the work of others, including material taken from the internet. See additional documents under the *Publishing Ethics* tab for a full explanation of what constitutes plagiarism. Note that authors are responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions from the copyright holder to reproduce previously published figures, tables and text passages in their articles (in both print and electronic formats) and to include evidence that such permission has been granted when submitting their papers. Proper credit lines must be included.

Redundant/Duplicate publication*: the resubmission of literal or substantial parts of the author’s own published work, presented as if it were a completely new work, or publishing many very similar manuscripts based on the same experiment (‘salamí’ publishing).

*Translations of work previously published in another language: these may be considered but only under very narrow conditions. See Statement of Editorial and Publication Policies for the conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions is a serious offence.

Multiple submissions: submitting literally or substantially the same manuscript or data to more than one journal at the same time for consideration.

Disputed authorship: 
Authorship with or without the listed author’s knowledge: a person is mentioned as an author in an article on which he/she has not substantially cooperated. (See also Authorship Guidelines tab.)
Unacknowledged authorship: an author is not acknowledged or incorrectly acknowledged for his/her contribution to an article.

Undeclared conflict of interest:
Authors: when authors fail to declare all conflicts of interest relevant to their publication (e.g., relationships, both financial and personal, that might affect the conduct or interpretation of their work and about which editors or readers might wish to be made aware; suggesting reviewers with a conflict of interest or fraudulent reviewers, etc.).
Reviewers: when reviewers fail to declare all conflicts of interest relevant to the submission being considered (e.g., relationships, both financial and personal, that might prevent an unbiased and objective evaluation of the work).

ACTIONS
Upon receiving a report of an alleged offense of intellectual dishonesty, the Managing Editor will commence an investigation.

If after investigation, the allegation seems to raise valid concerns, the accused author will be contacted and given an opportunity to address the issue. A copy of this letter may also be sent to the head of the respective institute/ university. If misconduct has been proven, this may result in implementation of the following measures including, but not limited to:

► If the article is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.
► If the article has already been published online, depending on the severity of the infraction, either an erratum will be placed beside the article or in severe cases complete retraction of the article will occur. The reason must be given in the published erratum or retraction note.
► The author’s institution may be informed.
► The author may be barred from submitting or publishing the results of any future studies in *Aerobiologia*.

TIPS!
- An internet search on the topic ‘Avoiding Plagiarism’ will result in helpful tutorials from many well-known universities.
- Tools like CrossCheck plagiarism software make it easy for journals to identify researchers that engage in unethical behavior. Consider the consequences to your career if you engage in unethical practices.