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Predatory publishers and identity fraud – how to identify dubious providers

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Fake science? Dubious publishers contribute to undermining societal trust in (open) science and medicine



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Two major aspects in this talk

- Predatory Publishers: how to recognize them
- Hijacked Journals: a new challenge



“Scientific literacy must include the ability to recognize publishing fraud.”

Jeffrey Beall: Predatory publishers are corrupting open access.
In Nature 489, 179, [doi:10.1038/489179a](https://doi.org/10.1038/489179a)



Usual procedure of the Predatory Publishers

- **Credible journals – peer-review, revision, risk of rejection**
- **Predatory journals – „Greetings, We adore your research!”**

How to recognize predators?

Active email campaign to submit articles / conference papers, or serve on editorial boards, often with reference to your previous articles / conference papers

How to recognize predators?

Predatory publishers often choose names confusingly similar to reputable titles..

The designations of the journals are very similar to those of renowned journals...

How to recognize predators?

Submission fees / APCs are comparatively low (not always the case!)

How to recognize predators?

**The publisher claims to be a "leading publisher"
(even though sometimes it just got started...)**

How to recognize predators?

**Accepting articles quickly with little
or no peer review or quality control**

**Reference to fast processing time, high impact,
etc.**

Predatory conferences

- Who does organize this conference? Scholarly/professional society? University?
- What are the options to contact the conference organizers? Free email accounts or '.edu' domain?
- Is there a paper/abstract acceptance process well-described? It should not be too fast...
- Does the conference promise to publish your paper? Usually, legitimate conferences do not guarantee publication, but have a peer-review process for papers.

“Think-Check-Submit”

Do you, your colleagues, or your supervisor know the magazine/publisher?

Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?

Does the journal provide clear information about its peer review process?

Are the articles indexed in databases that you use yourself?

Have you heard of the members of the Editorial Board?

Do the members of the Board indicate the activity for the journal on their websites?

Is the publisher a member of a recognized initiative?

Does it belong to the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)?

Is the journal listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)?

Does the publisher belong to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association (OASPA)?

Have a look at this website <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

New challenge – the identity fraud of scientific journals

- hijacked journals
- cloned journals
- replica journals

Hijacked journals

- Establishing a fake website of scholarly journal, imitating the real one
- Identical or almost identical
- Contains authentic journal data (title, ISSN, address, editorial board members...)
- Modifications: more in English, enlarge journal profile, new bank account, new frequency, new e-mail addresses
- Modification: WEB domain address differs slightly
- Main goal: maximization of financial profit

Hijacked ≠Predatory

- They publish or not
- They charge the access to journal archives

Characteristics of hijacked journals

- Prestige of journal
- Citation index
- Indexed in databases
- However, not highest in the rankings (email invitation would not be reliable...)
- Most endangered:
 - less known specialized, non-English journals
 - published by small learned societies
 - in print version only
- High positioning in Google
- Hacking of Wikipedia websites and/or Web of Science (by inserting links to fake journal websites)

Difficult to chase and punish

- hidden websites
- registered not in the country of original journal
- registered in countries beyond the Western legal regulations
- the only way to warn: announcements and alerts on websites of original journals

Example from Poland - Sylwan

Sylwan Journal



Journal Scope
Review Process
Paper Submission
Guidelines
Contact Information
Editorial Board

Submit your article
online:

[Submit Here](#)

Journal Archives (1820-Now)

English Archive

Choose an archive ▾

Polish Bulletin

Wybierz zeszyt ▾

Order the unavailable volumes [here](#)



About

As a long lasting highly cited peer reviewed periodical, SYLWAN is a well-known scientific journal printed in Poland since 1820. The journal initial steps were under the supervision of the semi-official organ of the Royal Forestry Corps in Poland. Since 1966 it has developed its coverage areas to all aspects of the life sciences. The journal language was formerly in Polish with English abstracts only, but since 2004 the English edition of the periodical started the publication of pioneer researches in full text English to extend its readers and audiences worldwide. Today, as a well trusted scientific periodical, SYLWAN is abstracted and indexed in Science Citation Index with the impact factor of 0.624. So foremost, we owe our thanks to the authors who have decided to entrust SYLWAN with their best work, allowing us to benefit from the high quality of their scientific endeavors. We hope to remain worthy of their trust and to continue providing a rigorous and respected environment for their publications.

Vol:2022 - Issue:1

Articles

Title: Organics Additive Effect on Chicken Meat Quality

Abstract: During the evolution of modern chicken production, there have been several changes in the nutritional requirements associated with a healthy food product, because antibiotics have residual effects on consumers. The latter committed a ban on the use of antibiotics in animal husbandry by the European Union in 2006. The development of

Journal Citation and Publication
Information (JCR2020):

Freq.	Monthly	ISSN	0039-7660
Impact Factor	0.624	5-Y-IF	0.595
Immediacy Index	0.12	Average Impact Factor	13.971

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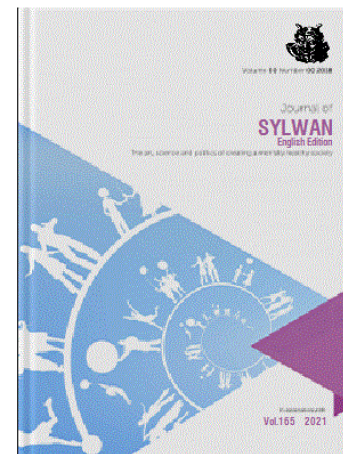
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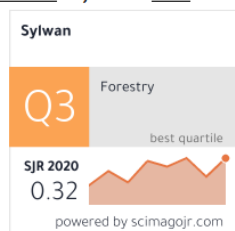
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Scoring

1,0 Scopus
CiteScore 0,287 Impact
Factor 70 Scoring of
MEIN

The oldest scientific journal of forestry

SYLWAN's issue(s) published so far | Dotychczas wydane zeszyty SYLWAN-a

The Sylwan's database contains the titles of 10706 articles that have been published from 1820 to the recently published issue.

Select issue | Wybierz zeszyt

Please use [Acrobat Reader](#) to read PDF files

From June 1, 2021 on, we accept only materials prepared in English. See "[Guidelines for Authors](#)" section for details. Manuscript should only be sent in electronic form to the address sylwanar@ibles.waw.pl.

Sylwan switches to English

Sylwan is the oldest worldwide scientific journal dealing with forestry issues since 1820. After 200 years of publishing Sylwan in Polish, the Polish Forest Society, Editor of the journal, guided by the concern to ensure and strengthen its position in the market of scientific publications, has decided to carry out a deep reform of the journal, including, inter alia, switching to publishing papers exclusively in English. This change is scheduled to start in the middle of 2021. For this purpose the Editor, Scientific Board and Editorial Board request all potential Authors to submit their manuscripts for publication in Sylwan, prepared according to the updated Guidelines to be found on the new Sylwan webpage (<https://sylwan.lasy.gov.pl/>). The ambition of Sylwan team is to raise the scientific position, level and range of the journal. Its long history and the role it played in the past and continues to play today in the forestry science and practice should attract, to the journal the largest possible group of Authors dealing with the widely understood relevant issues of forestry in temperate and sub-boreal regions. Therefore, during the transition time, we kindly request address all potential Authors to submit their papers to Sylwan in English. We hope that, with the support of the whole community of foresters, we shall be able to get the journal through this difficult phase for the benefit forestry science and practice in Poland and abroad.

Sylwan przechodzi na angielski

Sylwan to najstarsze leśne czasopismo naukowe na świecie, wydawane od 1820 r. Po 200 latach ukazywania się w języku polskim Polskie Towarzystwo Leśne, będące Wydawcą Sylwana, kierując się troską o zapewnienie i umacnianie jego pozycji na rynku wydawnictw naukowych, podjęło decyzję o dokonaniu reformy czasopisma, obejmującej m.in. publikowanie wyłącznie prac w języku angielskim. Wprowadzenie tej zmiany planowane jest na połowę 2021 roku. Z tego względu Wydawca, Rada Programowa i Komitet Redakcyjny zwracają się do potencjalnych Autorów o nadsyłanie do Sylwana prac przeznaczonych do publikacji, przygotowanych zgodnie z aktualnymi wskaźnikami zamieszczonymi na nowej stronie internetowej Sylwana (<https://sylwan.lasy.gov.pl/>). Ambicją zespołu Sylwana jest podniesienie pozycji, poziomu i zasięgu czasopisma. Jego długa historia oraz rola, jaką spełniał i nadal pełni w nauce i praktyce leśnej, powinny być zachętą do publikowania prac przez jak najszersze grono Autorów zajmujących się problemami leśnictwa w strefie klimatu umiarkowanego i sub-borealnego. W okresie transformacji Sylwana zwracamy się więc z apelem do wszystkich potencjalnych Autorów o składanie prac przeznaczonych do opublikowania w języku angielskim. Liczymy na to, że z pomocą całego środowiska leśników uda nam się przeprowadzić czasopismo przez ten trudny etap, z pozyskiem dla nauki i praktyki leśnej w Polsce i poza jej granicami.

INFORMATION | INFORMACJE

- **Publication fees:** Publication of the article in the journal is free of charge, except printing of colour figures (upon previous contact with the Editor). It is also possible to preserve the colour in the electronic version of the article, without any additional fees.
- This journal provides immediate open access to its content under the [Creative Commons BY 4.0](#) license. Authors who publish with this journal retain all copyrights and agree to the terms of the above-mentioned CC BY 4.0 license.
- Domena sylwan@ibles.org nie ma nic wspólnego z serwisem redakcji Sylwana. Prosimy nie reagować na korespondencję pochodzącą z tej domeny. SYLWAN Editorial Board informs that sylwan@ibles.org is not any official version of our website and no correspondence (especially spam mailings) is sent by the Board. We bare no responsibility for any submission or contact with its owners and administrators.

- The search engine for articles published before 2003 was connected to the scanned articles available in the AGRO database. Wyszukiwarka artykułów, wydanych przed 2003 rokiem, została podłączona do skanów artykułów dostępnych w bazie AGRO.
- **DOI for Sylwan's articles.** DOI numbers are provided for all PDF files with scientific articles collected in the Sylwan database since 2003.
- **DOI dla artykułów Sylwana.** Numerami DOI oznaczono wszystkie pliki PDF z artykułami naukowymi zgromadzonymi w bazie Sylwana od 2003 roku.
- Please read the current version of the [Guidelines for Authors](#) before submitting new articles to the editor.

Sylvan

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Sylvan is the oldest **scientific journal** covering **forestry** in the world that is still in print.^{[1][2]} It was established in 1820 as the semi-official organ of the **Royal Forestry Corps** in **Poland**. Since 1925 it has been published by the **Polish Forest Society**.

Contents [hide]

- Abstracting and indexing
- Fake journal counterpart
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Abstracting and indexing [edit]

Sylvan is abstracted and indexed in the **Science Citation Index Expanded**, **CAB International**, and **Polish Scientific Journal Contents**. According to the *Journal Citation Reports*, the journal has a 2018 **impact factor** of 0.691.^[3]

Fake journal counterpart [edit]

SCAM: There is a fake journal that publishes research papers and charges a \$440 publication fee in <http://sylvan.ibles.org/>^[4] This is a fraud link. Beware and do not publish articles in <http://sylvan.ibles.org/>^[4]

The real link of the journal is <https://sylvan.lasy.gov.pl/>^[4]

See also [edit]

- List of forestry journals

References [edit]

- ↑ Petru-Ioan Becheru (Aug 2012). "Revista pădurilor online"^[4]. *Revista pădurilor* (in Romanian). **127** (4): 46–53. ISSN 1583-7890^[4]. 16819. Archived from the original^[4] on 2016-05-17. Retrieved 2012-10-21.
- ↑ "SYLWAN Profil i historia pisma (Sylvan History)"^[4]. *Sylvan* (in Polish). Retrieved 2020-03-06.
- ↑ "SYLWAN. Wskazówki dla autorów"^[4] (in Polish). Retrieved 2020-03-06.

Sylvan

Discipline	Forestry
Language	Polish
Edited by	Wojciech Grodzki
Publication details	
History	1820-present
Publisher	Polish Forest Society (Poland)
Frequency	Monthly
Impact factor	0.691 (2018)

Standard abbreviations

ISO 4	<i>Sylvan</i>
Indexing	
ISSN	0039-7660 ^[4]
LCCN	59053413 ^[4]
OCLC no.	1607487 ^[4]

Links

- Journal homepage^[4]

Predatory & hijacked publishers - risks for science

- Endangering integrality of scholarly communication
- Violating the reliability of scholarly publications
- Deforming the image of science.
- Inappropriate spending of public funds (received from research grants, etc.)

What to do, if you are in doubt

- **Whitelists:** Directory of Open Access Journals, Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association,
- **Reference Databases:** Web of Science /Journal Citations Report, Scopus
- **Blacklists:** (<https://beallist.net/>; <http://predatoryjournals.net/>)
- **Ask your subject librarian and/or your supervisor!**

References / Further readings

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- **“Research Data Management – Introduction to FAIR and Open Data”** | 7 March 2022, 15:00 - 16:30
- **“Best practices for software in Open Science”** | 21 March 2022

- ... and **four more** in sunny spring and early summer, **check the website!**

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Thank you!

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