



## New knowledge in 10 minutes:

- You are aware of the problems of predatory publishing.
- You know criteria to recognize predatory publishers and journals.

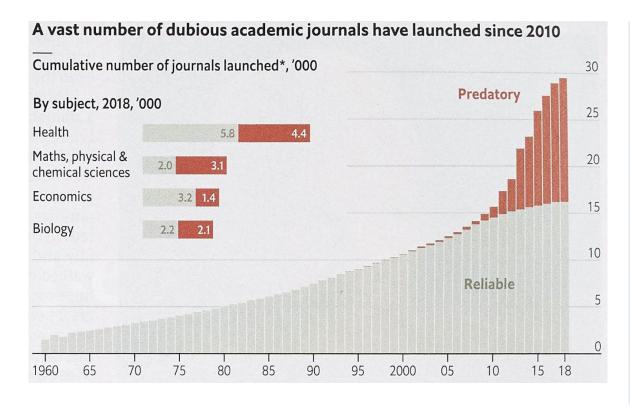
### Definition: What are we talking about?

Definition: "Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense
of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best
editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and
indiscriminate solicitation practices."

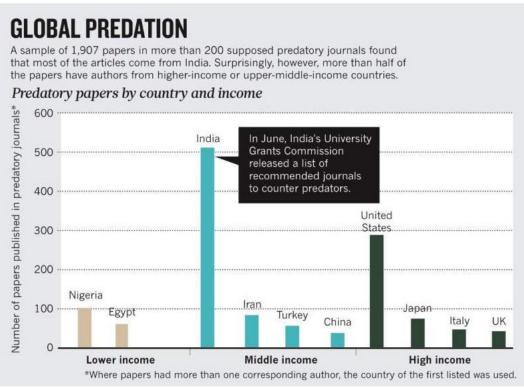
Grudniewicz, A. et al. (2019), Nature 576, 210-212, <u>10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y</u>

Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing by COPE: <a href="https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.12">https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.12</a>

### Scale of the problem



"Garbage in." Economist, May 30th-June 5th 2020, p. 81.



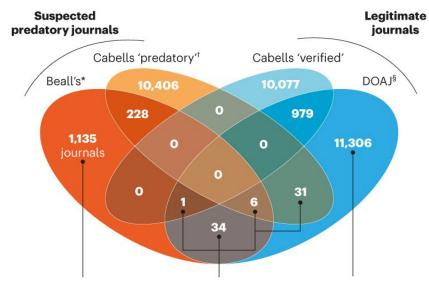
Moher, D. et. al (2017), Nature 594, 23-25, 10.1038/549023a

28.11.2024

### Categorization

#### NO LIST TO RULE THEM ALL

Assessments of which journals are likely to be predatory or legitimate do not tally, and titles can appear in both categories. There is no way to know which journals were considered for a list but left off, or which were not considered.



Beall's list highlighted the issue of predatory journals, but faced criticism over transparency and legal threats from listed titles. It ceased operation in 2017.

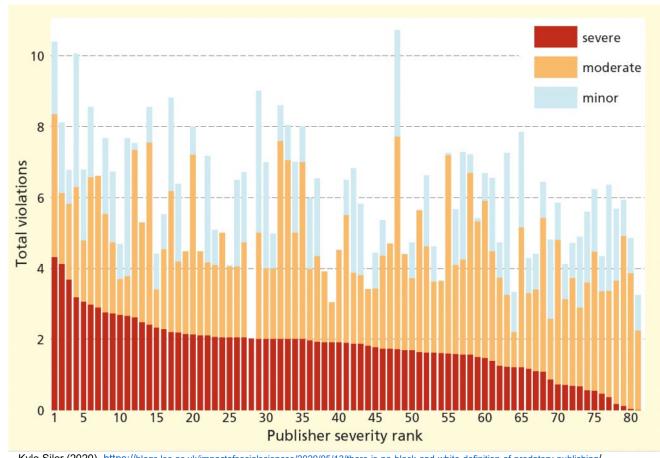
Some journals deemed legitimate by the DOAJ were deemed predatory by Beall's and/or Cabells lists.

The DOAJ relies mainly on information from publishers. It regularly purges titles that do not meet quality criteria.

<sup>\*</sup>Informally assessed by University of Colorado Denver librarian Jeffrey Beall in ~2008-17; Pay-to-access lists from Cabells, a scholarly analytics company; The Directory of Open Access Journals, a community-curated list requiring journal best practices such as peer review and statements on author fees and licensing.



Grudniewicz, A. (et al.), Nature 576, 210-212 (2019) 10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y



Kyle Siler (2020), https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2020/05/13/there-is-no-black-and-white-definition-of-predatory-publishing/

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#### Withdrawal Policy:

It may be imperative for authors to withdraw their submissions at any stage. The articles which are requested to withdraw within 10 days from submission will be withdrawn for free of cost. The articles which are requested to withdraw during review process will be charged a withdrawal fee of 40% of publication fee. The articles which are requested to withdraw after acceptance for publication will be charged a withdrawal fee of 60% of publication fee. The articles which are requested to withdraw after invoice will be charged a withdrawal fee of 80% of publication fee.

\*2023 Journal Impact Factor was established by dividing the number of articles published in 2021 and 2022 with the number of times they are cited in 2023 based on Google Scholar Citation Index database. If 'X' is the total number of articles published in 2021 and 2022, and 'Y' is the number of times these articles were cited in indexed journals during 2023 then, impact factor = Y/X

Developmental Biology, Ecology (including Development, Growth Regulation), Entomology, Ethnobotany, Ethnopharmacology, Ethnoveterinary, Evolutionary Biology, Genetics and Genomics, Horticulture (fruits,

Physiology, Phytochemistry, Plant Breeding, Plant Genetics, Plant Pathology, Plant Production Systems,

vegetables, ornamentals), Microbiology, Molecular biology, Morphology, Nutrition, Pathogen Resistance, Pest Management (Entomology, Plant Pathology, Weed Science), Photosynthesis, Phylogeny, Hylogeography,

Population genetics, Signal Transduction, Stress Physiology, Symbiosis (especially Mycorrhizae and Rhizobia),

Systems Biology, Taxonomy, Water Relations and Gas exchange, Weed Science and all other related areas.

iMedPub uses Online Review and Editorial Tracking System for quality review process. Authors can submit

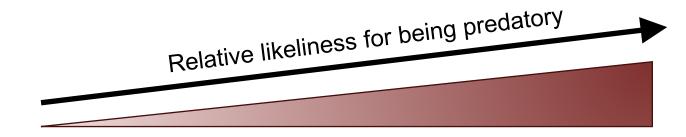
their manuscripts and track their progress through the Editorial Tracking System. Reviewers can download manuscripts and submit their opinions. Editors can manage the whole submission/review/revise/publish

process. Publishers can see what manuscripts are in the pipeline awaiting publication. E-mail will be sent

Authors may submit their manuscript Online at www.imedpub.com/submissions/asian-plant-science

automatically to concerned persons when significant events occur.

### Predatory Publishers & Journals: Characteristics



Publication Speed: low high

Peer Review Time: long short

Mailings: none or few aggressive, soliciting

Pictures on website: ok blured, unauthorized

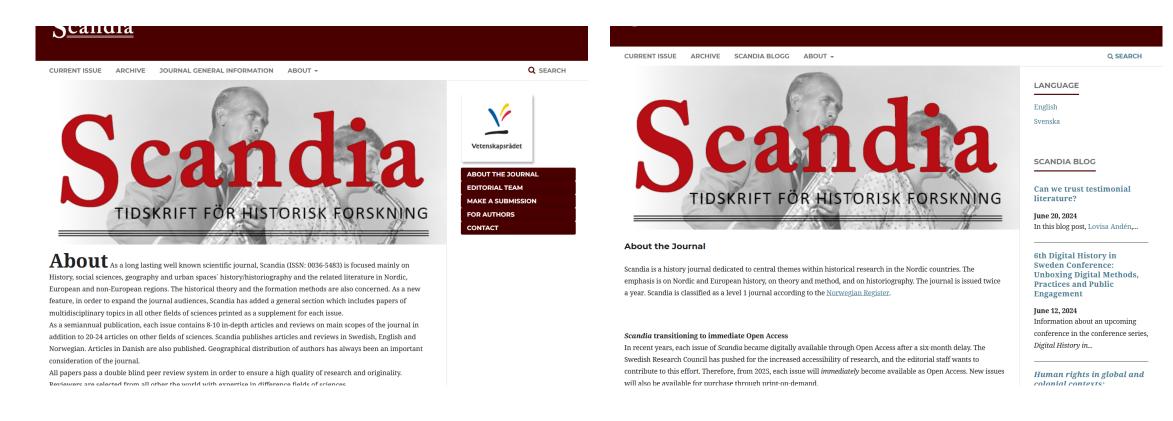
Impact Metric/Indexing: DOAJ, WoS, Scopus, Medline Index Copernicus Value, etc.

Editorial board members: verified, renowned scientists unverified, unknown

Editorial Services: professional none

Publishing Practices: high quality deceptive

### Hijacked Journals



"Hijacked journals are a form of cybercrime in which a malicious third party creates a cloned website to impersonate a legitimate publication. [...] The purpose of a hijacking is to generate money quickly by charging illegitimate article-processing fees to unsuspecting researchers."

(Ryan, J. (2024), Nature. https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-02399-1)



ETH Library

### Library recommendations

- Journal selection:
  - Indexing: <u>Directory of Open Access Journals (DC</u>
  - Membership: OASPA (the Open Access Scholarl on Publication Ethics)?
  - Finish Journal Evaluation site: www.julkaisufooru
  - More tips: <a href="http://thinkchecksubmit.org">http://thinkchecksubmit.org</a>
  - Journal's website
- Peer Review: No → Waste of time
- Ask the library fo a second opinion (e-publishing@library.ethz.ch)



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### Monitor your publication record

- 1. Search your name and affiliation online to ensure you are not on editorial boards of predatory journals or conference committees.
- 2. Check for unconsented acknowledgements, which misuse your name or imply your endorsement of the content.

If anything turns up, contact the publisher or the corresponding author, reach out to the Integrity Office for advice (<u>integrity@ethz.ch</u>).

"These check-ups aren't cure-alls for predatory publishers, deceptive practices, unheeded reviews or simple mistakes. Think of it like cleaning up a beach: more litter will wash in, but the more that's removed, the cleaner the beach is and the more pollution is discouraged."

Cabanac, G. (2021). Nature, 598 (7882), 541, https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02901-z







# Thanks for your attention!

**Next Coffee Lecture:** 

Coffee Lectures will be back in February! Wednesdays 3.15 p.m.

See: www.library.ethz.ch/coffee-lectures for program details!