



PREDATORY JOURNALS

Midi de l'info
scientifique

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LIBRARY



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

AGENDA

1. Quick survey
2. What's a predatory Journal?
 - Definition
 - Numbers
 - Examples
3. Why could it be a problem?
4. Tools and Checklists

QUICK SURVEY

<https://votamatic.unige.ch/>

Code d'accès rapide : NSFD

VOTE

YES ☐ NO ☐

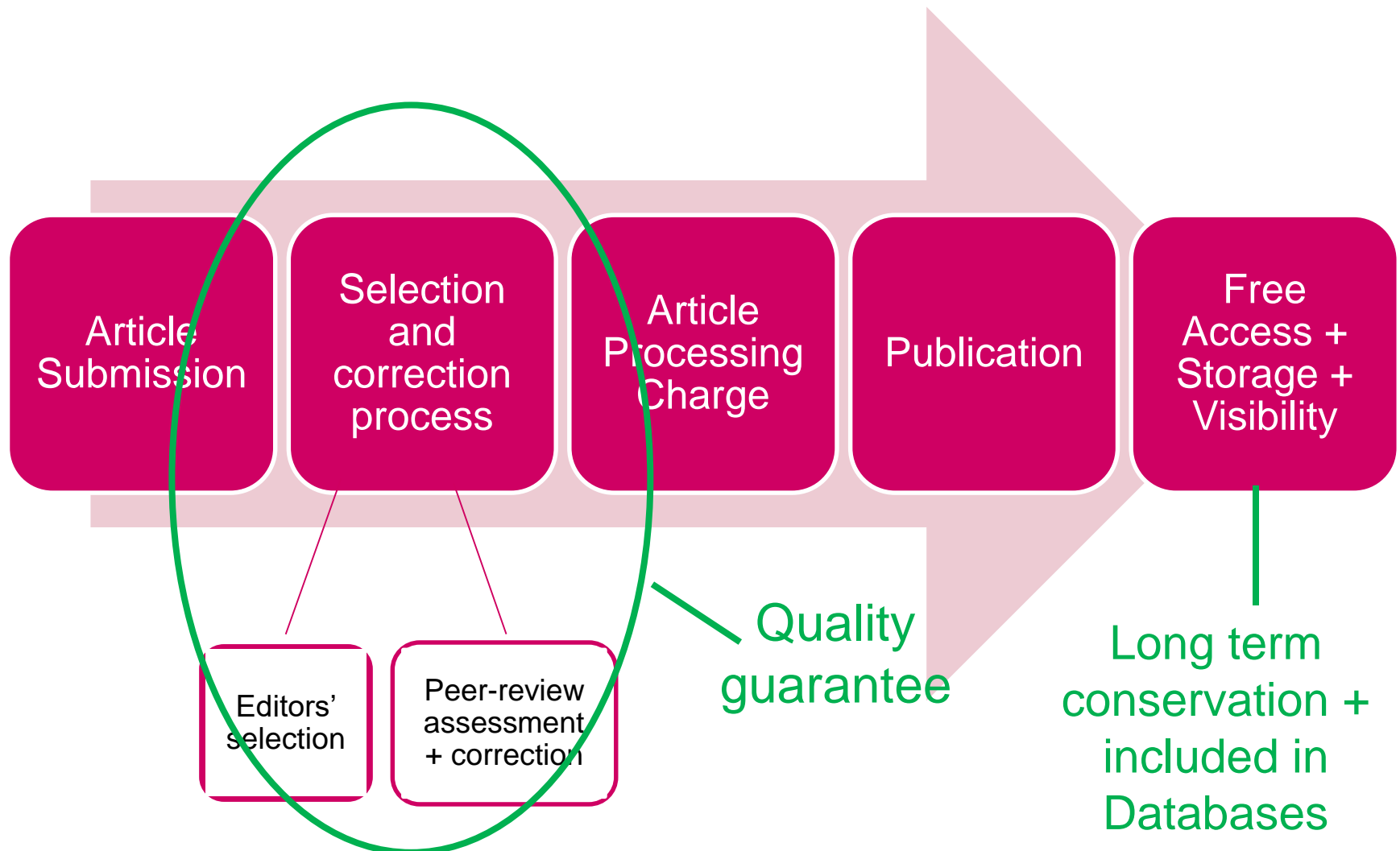


WHAT'S A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

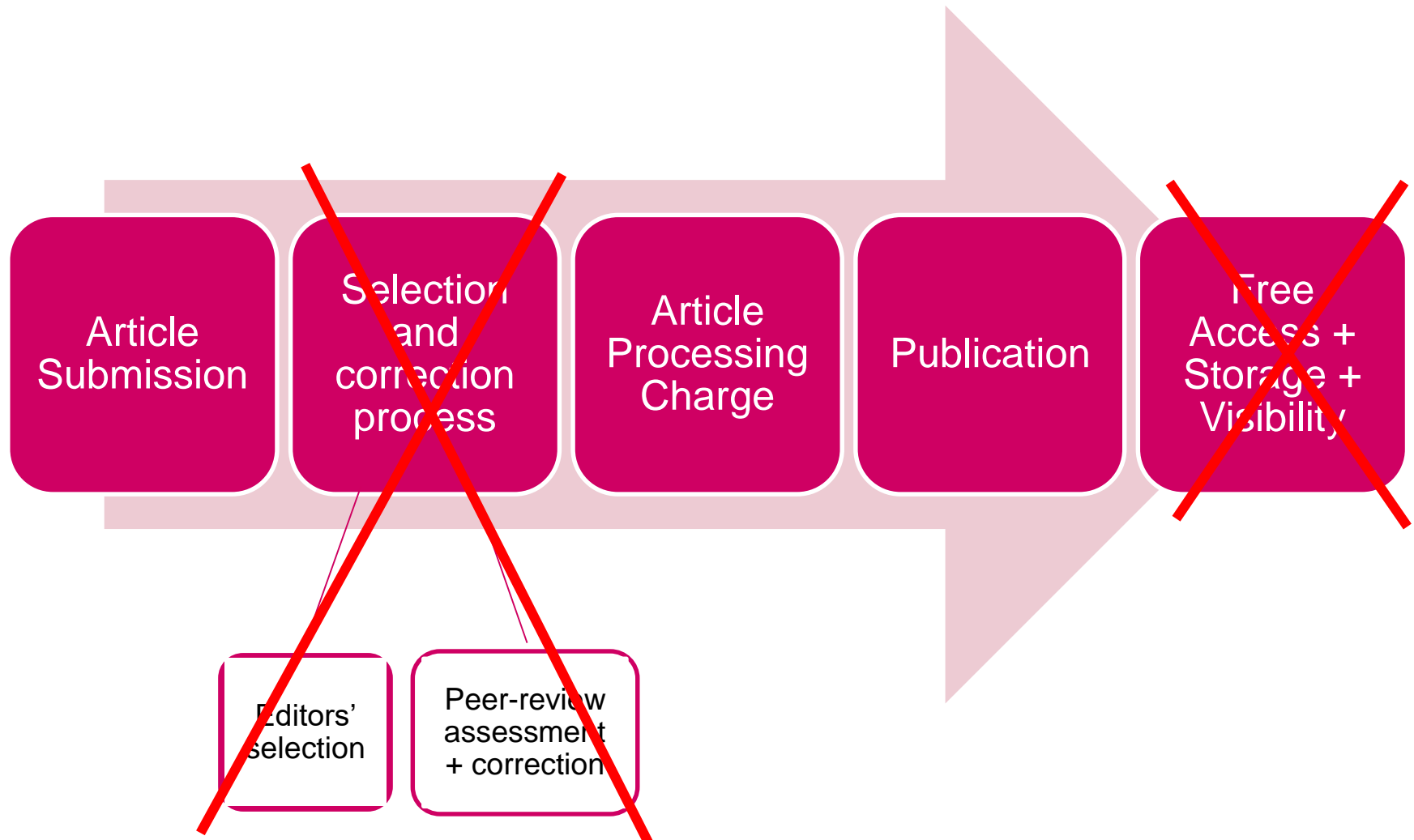
“Predatory journals pose as scientific journals: they offer to publish articles in return for a fee, but they do not offer services with regard to quality control and editing as you would expect from a serious scientific journal.”

([SNSF's position with regard to predatory journals](#) – Open Access Publication)

Classic Gold Open Access Journal



Predatory Journal



PREDATORY JOURNALS' PRACTICES

A wide array of **unethical business practices**, such as

- **Fraudulent claims**: about where they are indexed, impact factors
- **False pretense**: copying names and designs of established journals
- **Deceptive promises**: implausible swift publication, yet peer review
- **No transparency**: about quality control, fees, copyright, withdrawal and digital archiving
- **Fictional editorial boards**, or using the names of recognised researchers without their knowledge !
- **Spam** emails, sometime overly flattering



Adapted from **SNSF** 2018

SOME NUMBERS

- 11'873 predatory journals from 996 publishers in 2014
- 420'000 articles published in 2014
- Geographic repartition of the authors
 - 60% from Asia,
 - 16% from Africa
 - 18% from western countries
- Repartition by discipline
 - Mainly engeneering, biomedecine and social sciences

(Shen C. et al. 2015)

In Switzerland (Amrein 2018):

- 222 articles by 146 researchers from Swiss universities / HES between 2005-2017

EXAMPLES

- Fake article submitted by Bohannon (2) with many methodology and data mistakes, fake researchers from fake African institutions to 304 Open Access journals including 121 supposed Predatory Journals
 - 82% of supposed Predatory Journals accepted the paper
 - Acceptance took 40 days on average
 - 60% of acceptance occurred with no sign of peer review
 - When peer review existed, it was focused on paper's layout, formatting and language

«Acceptance was the norm, not the exception»

EXAMPLES

Journal's quality can fluctuate over time

- *Oncotarget* was a renowned cancer journal with an impact factor of 5.2 in 2016
 - Was quite popular among swiss researchers (110 articles in 2015-7)
 - Was removed from MEDLINE databases and Clarivate Analytics because “it no longer meets the standards necessary for continued coverage”
 - Has a huge impact on visibility and H-Index
- *Experimental & Clinical Cardiology*
 - «published for 17 years by a respectable Canadian subscription publisher», then was purchased by another publisher (swiss)
 - Number of published articles increased **from 63 in 2013 to over 1'000 in 2014** (Shen et al. 2015)
 - Was removed from MEDLINE databases and Clarivate Analytics
 - Website no longer accessible... articles > 2013 are lost.



EXAMPLE OF SWISS HIJACKED JOURNAL

SAUSSUREA

Multidisciplinary International Peer Reviewed Journal
Indexed in Web of Science (E-ISSN: 0373-2525)



HOME JOURNAL SCOPE AND AIMS INDEXED AND ABSTRACTED AUTHOR'S GUIDE PUBLISHED VOLUMES

PUBLISHED VOLUMES

SEARCH

2011 Volume 1

Issue 1 - Jun 2011
Issue 2 - Dec 2011

2012 Volume 2

Issue 1 - Jun 2012
Issue 2 - Dec 2012

Hijacked journal

- Accepts anything, on any topic
- Falsely claims to be indexed in WOS
- ISSN is that of the legitimate journal
- Volume 1 in 2011

Real journal

- Online until 2010. Then, paper only
- Vol 40 in 2010

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Société Botanique de Genève

Accueil > Publications de la Société botanique de Genève

Liste des publications de la Société botanique de Genève 30 Ko

Saussurea est le journal de la Société botanique de Genève.
Il comporte les rubriques suivantes :

- **Notre Société** : relate la vie de la Société botanique de Genève.
- **Presse** : présente les nouvelles régionales et internationales sur la botanique
- **Découverte** : articles de vulgarisation scientifique.
- **Synthèse** : décrit un thème de recherche en permettant de comprendre son contexte et ses enjeux.
- **Recherche** : articles scientifiques originaux et expertisés dans le domaine de la botanique et de la mycologie.
- **Pratique** : fournit des informations pratiques sur des livres, des sites web, des associations, etc.
- **Agenda** : calendrier des principales manifestations botaniques locales et régionales.

Saussurea 40 (2010)

ISSN: 0373-2525 40 1-143 (2010)

PREDATORY CONFERENCES: EXAMPLES

- Fake Conferences

OMICS
International
Conferenceseries.com



Paper Presentation
Special award for best performance
9th International Conference on
Emerging Infectious Diseases
August 27-28, 2018 | Zurich, Switzerland

Submit your abstract to - <https://emergingdiseases.infectiousconferences.com/>
PS: <https://emerging-diseases.infectiousconferences.com/call-for-abstracts.php>

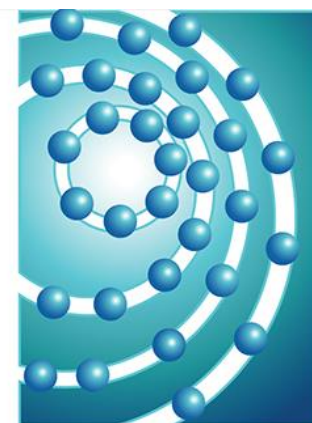
Emerging Diseases 2018

Zika Virus Tissue Sampling Protocol's Purpose Defined through Algorithm in Anatomic Pathology for trainees.

9th International Conference on
Emerging Infectious Diseases
Zurich, Switzerland | August 27-28, 2018

Kristine McCluskey
Baylor College of Medicine
Texas, USA

Entertain confusion with established ones:



ICEID
2018

International Conference
on Emerging Infectious Diseases

August 26-29, 2018
Atlanta, Georgia

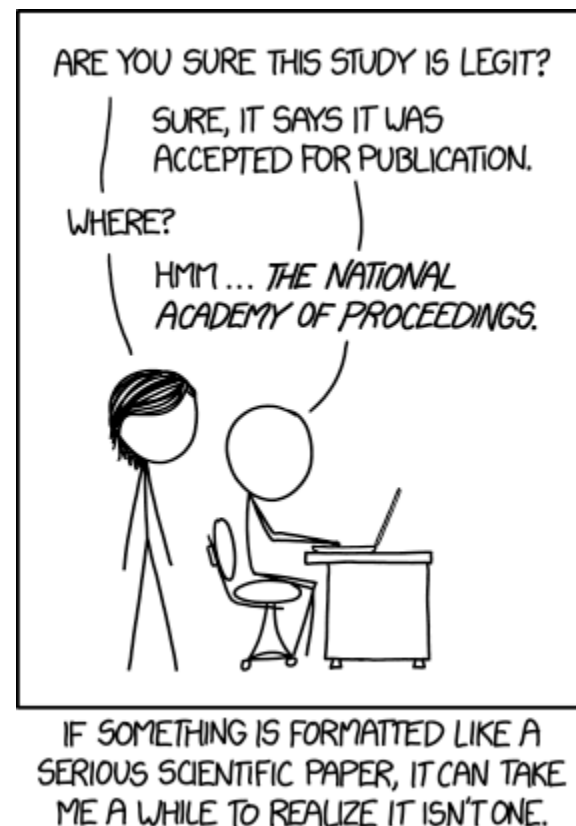
In nov. 2017, the Federal Trade Commission has been granted an injunction to stop OMICS (and Conference Series LLC) from «making false claims about their journals and academic conferences, and hiding their publishing fees »

WHY COULD IT BE A PROBLEM?


- For the researcher / its institution / funder
 - Lack of credibility: your paper won't be seen as a proper scientific peer-reviewed article
 - Your paper won't be accepted in an another journal: you'll need to rewrite an original article
 - Lack of visibility: predatory journals are not included in proper databases as WoS or Medline
 - Lack of long-term storage
 - Your name can be associated to one of those journals: Predatory publishers often put contributors on their editorial board (whithout their consent)

WHY COULD IT BE A PROBLEM?

- For Science itself:
 - Difficulty to distinguish good peer-reviewed articles from low quality papers
 - Decrease of general science quality
 - Almost impossible to obtain a retraction...
 - Waste of resources (good research do not get the visibility they deserve)



LISTS

- Blacklist
 - Beall's list (shut down. Archived [here](#). Put online again with anonymous updates [here](#) and [there](#))
- White lists
 - Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)) 
- Databases
 - Web of Science
 - Pubmed (indexed for MEDLINE)
 - RERO Explore
- Experience / feedback of authors:
 - Quality Open access Market ([QOAM](#))
- Recommended checklist for your own investigation
 - <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>



THINK



CHECK



SUBMIT



YOUR TURN

Keeping in mind the warning signs above:
Evaluate one of the following journal

- *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* <http://www.ijhssnet.com/>
- *Journal of education and sociology* <https://www.eu-print.org/teh.php>
- *Global Journal of Addiction & Rehabilitation Medicine (GJARM)* <https://juniperpublishers.com/gjarm/>



SOME WARNING SIGNS

	<i>International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences</i> 2220-8488	<i>Journal of education and sociology</i> 2078-032X	<i>Global Journal of Addiction & Rehabilitation Medicine (GJARM)</i> 2573-2447
Website : overall impression	icons do not display. « honorable reviewer »	Search page does not seem to work: “loading”	Weird sounding formula eg. «honorably accept ebooks»
Quality ?	For you to judge in your domain, but covers very (too?) broad topics ?	hard to verify as there are no abstracts	At least one very bad example: author speaks of himself, cites himself. Typos. “Cite as” errors
Indexing and IF Claims ?	News “IJHSS is now indexed with DRJI” → points to website for sale. Other FALSE claims : DOAJ, Gale, Ebsohost, ERIC , Scopus.	Claims to be in Ebsco Academic Search Complete (isn't), Scirus (no longer exists), and Ulrich's (true but says it is NOT Peer-rev.) Doi are not working.	Submit a manuscripts > «PubMed Indexed articles» box (top right). But those are NIH funded only. The journal is not indexed in Medline
Transparency ?	Submission page is clear: Fees are stated. PR process is explained. Yet in FAQ : PR takes max 2 weeks ! Too short...	No APC but author need to subscribe. No subscription cost announced.	Fees are a bit hidden. «Guidelines for author» makes changes to dropdown menu & add a fee section. Need to pay online only ?
Editorial board	Run a search in google for the chief ed name: see 2 nd result !!	Difficult to verify : no bio, no first name, no affiliation, no field of expertise...	A LOT of people! Impossible to corroborate Register as editor is easy

SOME WARNING SIGNS (CONTINUED)

	<i>International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences</i> 2220-8488	<i>Journal of education and sociology</i> 2078-032X	<i>Global Journal of Addiction & Rehabilitation Medicine (GJARM)</i> 2573-2447
On Beall's list ?	No But the publisher: Center for Promoting Ideas: <u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>	Not the journal. But the publisher Juniper: <u>Yes</u>
White lists: <u>DOAJ</u> <u>Web of science</u> <u>PubMed</u>	Not in DOAJ Not in WOS	Not in DOAJ Not in WOS	Not in DOAJ Not in WOS <u>Not indexed</u> in Medline.
<u>QOAM</u>	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed
Other comments ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewers are recruited (<u>application form</u> ask them to state a minimum number of review per month!) Numbers given for DOAJ <u>description</u> are terribly old and not valid anymore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impossible to buy an article only. Only exists in paper version. Libraries do not subscribe acc. to <u>Worldcat</u> → bad visibility for your research... Contacts section lists a gmail address for paper submission, but there is a submission form ?! 	<u>Accepted a dog on their editorial board</u>

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- No list is sufficient. DIY investigation is needed
- Verify their claims
- Use the Think.Check.Submit checklist



- Ask your network (colleagues or QOAM)





SUGGESTED READINGS

- Shen C, Björk B-C. 'Predatory' open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics. BMC Medicine. 2015;13: 230. doi:[10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2)
- Shamseer L, et al. Potential predatory and legitimate biomedical journals: can you tell the difference? A cross-sectional comparison. BMC Medicine. 16 mars 2017;15:28. doi:[10.1186/s12916-017-0785-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-017-0785-9)
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- thinkchecksubmit [Internet]. [cited 23 May 2018]. Available: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

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doi:[10.1126/science.342.6154.60](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.342.6154.60)
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

unige.ch/biblio

www.unige.ch/biblio/fr/openaccess/editeurs-predateurs/



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