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'YOU'VE COPIED ALL THIS OFF  
THE INTERNET...'

## ***"Cut & Paste": everything you always wanted to know about plagiarism in tropical ecology\****

*By Pierre-Michel Forget (MNHN, Brunoy, France) – [pmf@mnhn.fr](mailto:pmf@mnhn.fr)*

*\*Title plagiarized after Reuben's book (1969) and popularized by Woody Allen's film in 1972.*

Images: <http://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/p/plagiarism.asp>  
<http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/jfm/plagiarism/plagiarism-jfm.htm>

**Updated 15 October 2012**

# Plagiarism (UK) / Plagiat (F)

- « **Plagiarism** is defined in dictionaries as the "wrongful appropriation," "close imitation," or "purloining and publication" of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions. »
- « Le **plagiat** consiste à s'inspirer d'un modèle que l'on omet délibérément ou par négligence de désigner. Le plagiaire est celui qui s'approprie frauduleusement le style, les idées, ou les faits. »
- « In the 1st century, the use of the Latin word *plagiarius* (literally *kidnapper*), to denote someone stealing someone else's work »

Sources :

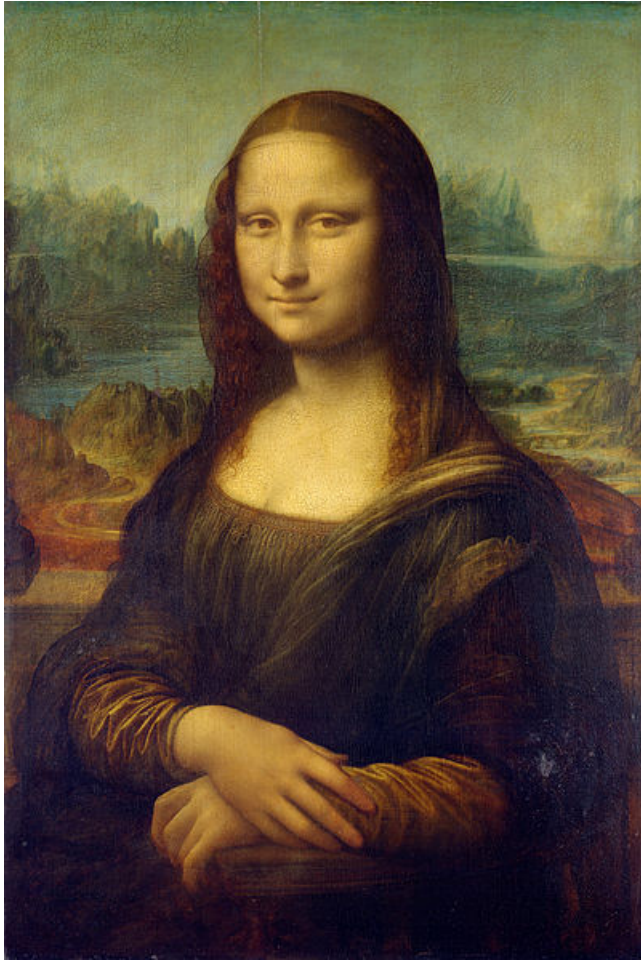
UK : <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism>

Fr : <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiat>



<http://www.arretsurimages.net/media/breve/s121/id12094/original.41267.png>

# Accepted Plagiarism



Léonard de Vinci (1452-1519)

[http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Mona\\_Lisa\\_by\\_Leonardo\\_da\\_Vinci\\_from\\_C2RMF\\_retouches.jpg](http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fichier:Mona_Lisa_by_Leonardo_da_Vinci_from_C2RMF_retouches.jpg)



Marcel Duchamp (1887-1968)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Marcel\\_Duchamp\\_Mona\\_Lisa\\_LHOOQ.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Marcel_Duchamp_Mona_Lisa_LHOOQ.jpg)

# Auto-Plagiarism



« I didn't write the book report. I downloaded and printed it directly from the Internet, but I did collate and staple it myself. »



« I didn't write the report. I printed it directly from the Internet, but I did all of the stapling and collating myself. »

<http://www.cartoonstock.com/directory/p/plagiarism.asp>

# Plagiarism, a Persistent Plague

→ « Plagiarism is probably one of the most misunderstood elements of scholarship. While everyone recognizes the evil of copying the work of another word for word, the consensus readily dissolves when discussions turn towards less egregious forms of "borrowing."

→ Plagiarism is a big business, even in Science



Source : <http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/jfm/plagiarism/plagiarism-jfm.htm#citations>

Image : <http://www.telerama.fr/medias/le-plagiat-pratique-honteuse-mais-contagieuse-du-journalisme,73034.php>

# Vade-Mecum on the Web !

## How to Plagiarize Papers Off the Internet

by Maria Stroffolino

Engl 391, Fall 1996

University of Maryland, University College

« Your paper for your history class is due tomorrow and you haven't even started it. You had every intention of writing the paper yourself, but now it's too late. You could ask the teacher for an extension and finish the paper late, but now, thanks to the Internet, you don't have to. You can join the expanding ranks of people who are shamelessly plagiarizing papers off the Internet. »

Source : <http://www.britecloth.com/maria/plagiarize.html>

<http://sociology.camden.rutgers.edu/jfm/plagiarism/plagiarism-jfm.htm#citations>

# « What's Up Doc? »

Les usages d'Internet  
dans l'enseignement supérieur :



« De la documentation...  
au plagiat »

# Cut & Paste (UK) / Copier-Coller (F)

**→ 9 students out of 10 (93,9 %) declared using “Cut & Paste” ! (2008)**



[http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521\\_sixdegres-univ-barcelona\\_univ-zaragoza\\_enquete-plagiat.pdf](http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521_sixdegres-univ-barcelona_univ-zaragoza_enquete-plagiat.pdf)

<http://blog.protectwhatsinside.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/cut-paste.jpg>



# Plagiarism among Students

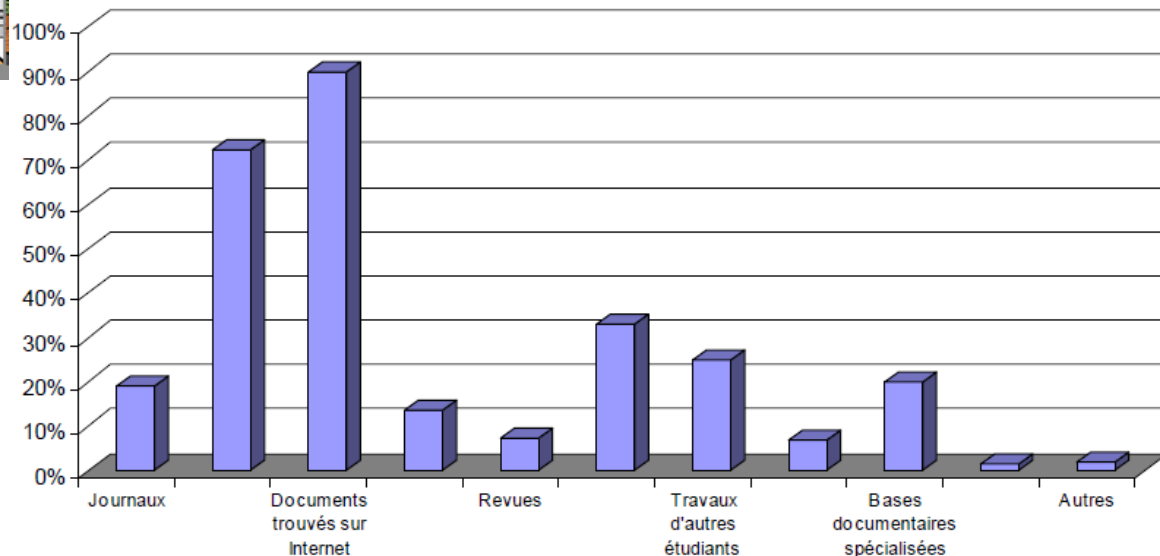


→ 9 out of 10 students use Internet to document themselves (2008)

Source :

[http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521\\_sixdegres-univ-barcelona-univ-zaragoza\\_enquete-plagiat.pdf](http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521_sixdegres-univ-barcelona-univ-zaragoza_enquete-plagiat.pdf)

Question : « Selon vous, quelles sont les principales sources de documentations utilisées par vos étudiants pour la rédaction de leurs travaux universitaires ? » (3 maximum) **(What are the main sources of documentation used by students in order to write their university report)**



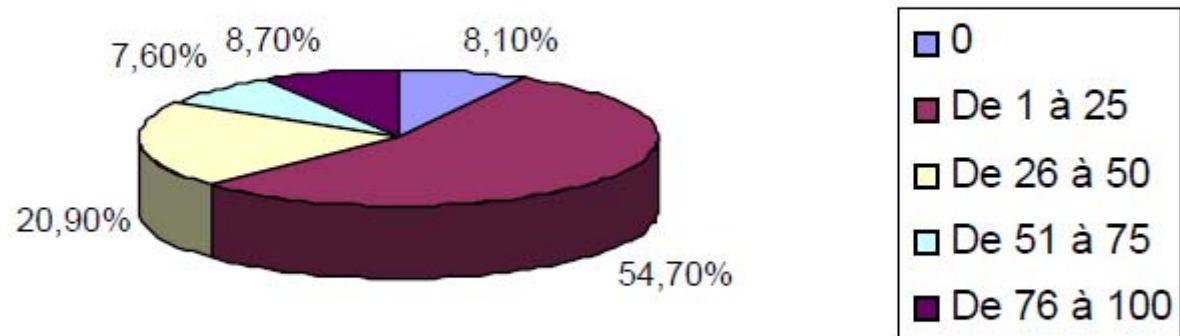
[http://edc.carleton.ca/blog/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/061013\\_internet\\_citing1.gif](http://edc.carleton.ca/blog/wp-content/uploads/2008/06/061013_internet_citing1.gif)

<http://edc.carleton.ca/blog/index.php/2008/06/18/searching-for-plagiarism-part-2-of-2/>

# Plagiarism among Students

Question : « *Parmi tous les travaux que vous rendez, combien contiennent au moins un passage copié sur Internet ?* » (How many of your reports contain at least one part copied from internet)

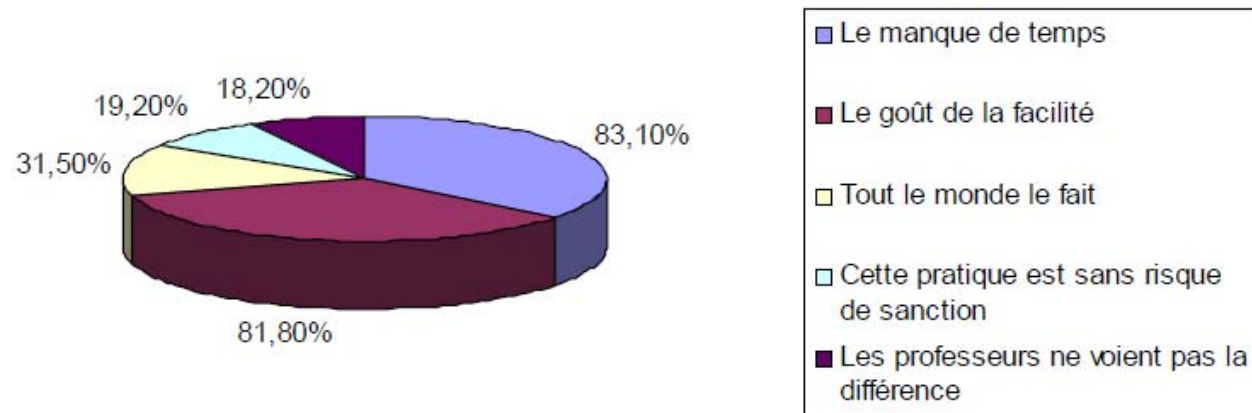
9 reports out of 10 (91,9%) contain at least one identical part copied from the internet. (2008)



Source : [http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521\\_sixdegres-univ-barcelona\\_univ-zaragoza\\_enquete-plagiat.pdf](http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521_sixdegres-univ-barcelona_univ-zaragoza_enquete-plagiat.pdf)

# Causes of Plagiarism

Question : *Pourquoi recourez-vous au "copier-coller" ? (3 réponses maximum) (Why do you use cut-and-paste)*



	Modalité citée en n° 1	Modalité citée en n° 2	Modalité la moins citée
<b>Explications du recours au "copier-coller"</b>			
Réponses étudiants	(83,1%) Par manque de temps	(81,8%) Par facilité	(18,2%) Les professeurs ne voient pas la différence
Réponses enseignants	(96,2%) Par facilité	(47,2%) Tout le monde le fait	(18,9%) Les professeurs ne voient pas la différence

Source : [http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521\\_sixdegres-univ-barcelona\\_univ-zaragoza\\_enquete-plagiat.pdf](http://www.compilatio.net/files/080521_sixdegres-univ-barcelona_univ-zaragoza_enquete-plagiat.pdf)

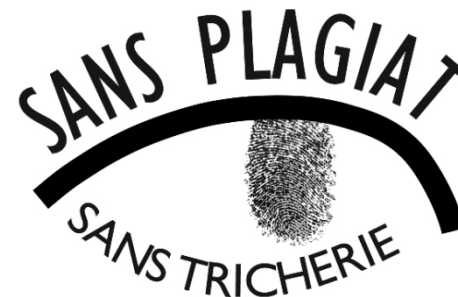
# Plagiarism : Toward a label ?

« Les écoles et universités qui affichent le sigle "ENGAGEMENT D'EXCELLENCE" sur leur site ont à coeur d'assurer des formations de haut niveau dans leur domaine.

Au sein de ces formations, la remise d'un travail écrit répond à des exigences pédagogiques strictes telles que :

1. la capacité d'appréciation d'une problématique
2. la recherche documentaire
3. l'acquisition des informations
4. la structuration des informations
5. la production et la restitution écrite de connaissances

En choisissant **COMPILATIO.NET**, écoles et universités bénéficient d'un outil leur permettant de mener une action aussi efficace en terme de prévention, de dissuasion que de répression du "copier-coller" sur Internet. »

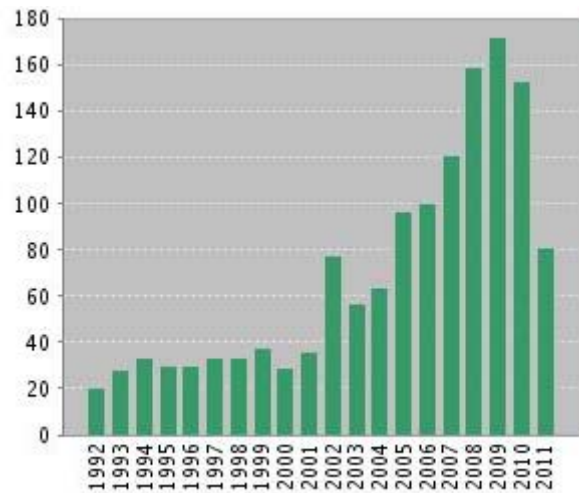


Source

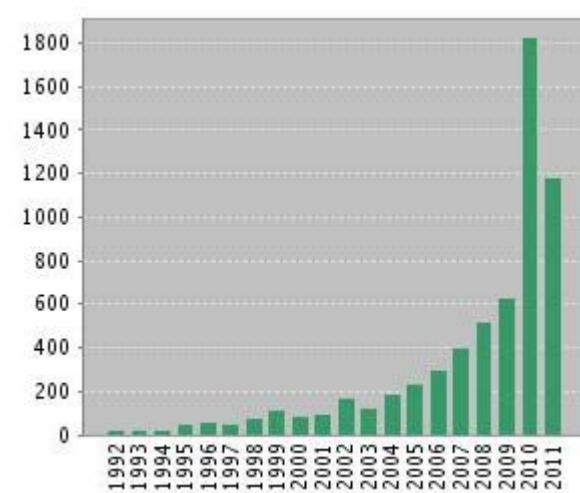
<http://www.compilatio.net/engagement-internet-sans-plagiat.php>

# Scientific Production

Published Items in Each Year



Citations in Each Year



Topic=(plagiarism)

1597 references between 1899-2011, of which 883 (46%) since 2005 (dated August 31, 2011)

Source : ISI Web of Knowledge © Thomson Reuters

# Plagiarism in Science : Many thanks to the Internet !

NATURE, May 2005

nature

Vol 435|19 May 2005

## SPECIAL REPORT

# Taking on the cheats

The true extent of plagiarism is unknown, but rising cases of suspect submissions are forcing editors to take action. **Jim Giles** reports.



« *We're hearing about it more frequently from editors* »

« *The extent of the problem is hard to assess* »

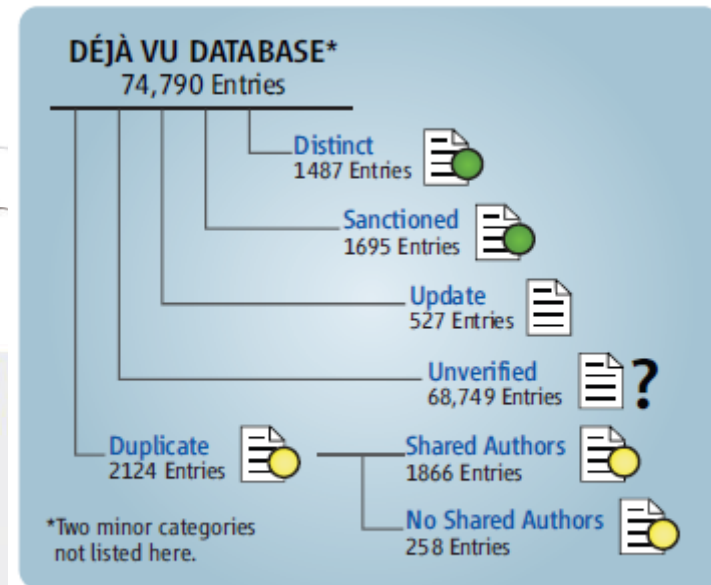
« *This may not be representative of basic research, but no rigorous, multidisciplinary study has ever been conducted.* »

# Plagiarism in Science : The Hunting Season is Open



SCIENCE, 22 May 2009, VOL 324, pp 1004-1007.

## NEWSFOCUS



Yellow and green. Some of Déjà vu's categories, such as "duplicate," may reflect inappropriate publication, whereas others, such as "distinct," indicate no problem.

## Plagiarism Sleuths

A Texas group is trolling through publications worldwide hunting for signs of duplicated material. The thousands of articles they've flagged online raise questions about standards in publishing—and about the group's own tactics

# Plagiarism in Medical Science ?

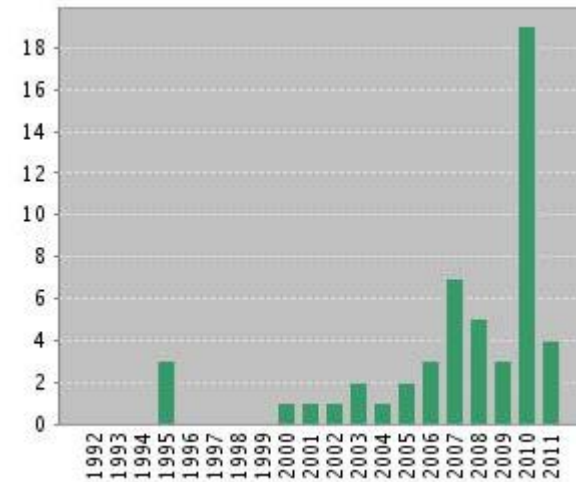
## Web of Science © Thomson Reuters

- Topic=(plagiarism AND medical)
- Between 1980-2011 :
  - 54 articles

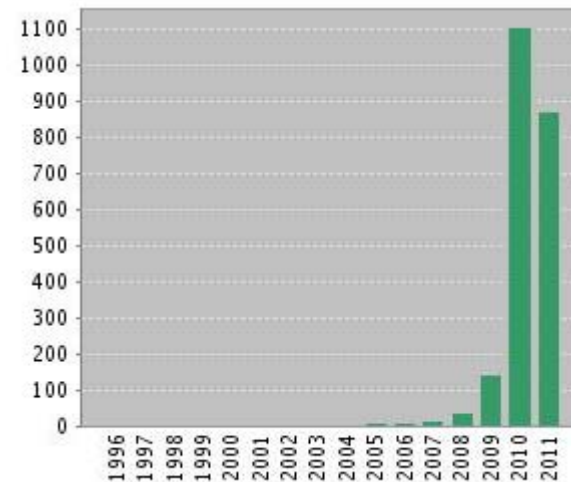
## 2 Articles to read

- *How many scientists fabricate and falsify research? A systematic review and meta-analysis of survey.* Fanelli, Plos One, 6 January 2009.doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0005738 (Cited 36 times)
- *Responding to Possible Plagiarism.* Long et al. Science 2009, 323 6 arch 2009

Published Items in Each Year



Citations in Each Year



Source : ISI Web of Knowledge, 26 Sept 2011



# Fabrication + Falsification + Modification = Misconduct

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



## How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Survey Data

Daniele Fanelli\*

INNOGEN and IISTI-Institute for the Study of Science, Technology & Innovation, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

the meta-analysis. A pooled weighted average of 1.97% (N = 7, 95%CI: 0.86–4.45) of scientists admitted to have fabricated, falsified or modified data or results at least once –a serious form of misconduct by any standard– and up to 33.7% admitted other questionable research practices. In surveys asking about the behaviour of colleagues, admission rates were 14.12% (N = 12, 95% CI: 9.91–19.72) for falsification, and up to 72% for other questionable research practices. Meta-regression showed that self reports surveys, surveys using the words “falsification” or “fabrication”, and mailed surveys yielded lower percentages of misconduct. When these factors were controlled for, misconduct was reported more frequently by medical/ pharmacological researchers than others. Considering that these surveys ask sensitive questions and have other limitations, it appears likely that this is a conservative estimate of the true prevalence of scientific misconduct.

**Citation:** PLoS ONE 4(5): e5738. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0005738

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0005738>

## Responding to Possible Plagiarism

Documenting reactions from authors and journal editors to plagiarism may help others address the problem.

Tara C. Long,<sup>1</sup> Mounir Errami,<sup>2</sup> Angela C. George,<sup>1</sup> Zhaohui Sun,<sup>2</sup> Harold R. Garner<sup>1,2\*</sup>

6 MARCH 2009 VOL 323 SCIENCE [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)  
Published by AAAS

1. « *9120 entries in Déjà vu with high levels of citation similarity and no overlapping authors* » ; 212 pairs of articles with potential plagiarism.
2. « *Further, 71.4% of the manuscript pairs shared at least one highly similar or identical table or figure. Of the 212 duplicates, 42% also contained incorrect calculations, data inconsistencies, and reproduced or manipulated photographs.* »

# How Do Editors and Publishers React to Plagiarism?

3. *“There has been a paucity of literature examining the reactions of stakeholders (both victims and perpetrators) when confronted with evidence of possible misconduct.”*
4. *“22% were from coauthors claiming no involvement in the writing of the manuscript. An additional 17% claimed they were unaware that their names appeared on the article in question.”*
5. Retractions « *do not propagate back to MEDLINE* » and « *researchers and clinicians may never become aware of an article’s retracted status* »

# Does it Really Matter ?

6. *“A large portion of the duplicates were published in **low-profile journals.**”*

7. *“we found that **original** publications were cited **28 times** on average, whereas their corresponding **duplicates** were cited only **twice.**”*

***BUT “the duplicate article was cited at least as often as the original publication”***

# How Do Editors and Publishers Respond to Plagiarism?

8. « *The majority of these **editors** showed **deep concern** and were open to any helpful suggestions or recommendations*».
9. « *Some apparently do not want to deal with the **added stress** of conducting a **thorough investigation**.*”
10. “*journal editors, many of whom are distinguished scientists themselves, **must** not merely trust in, **but also verify the originality of the manuscripts they publish**”*”

# A Big Cleaning is Needed, but...

## Keep it clean

*Integrity guidelines are a good start, but they must be clear and appropriately enforced.*

**M**aintaining integrity in science seems to be in fashion. US officials are preparing to review policies on scientific integrity drafted by some 19 government agencies. Canada is overhauling its research-integrity policy, and the UK Research Integrity Office is looking for new sources of support after losing government funding. The European Commission has also started to discuss how to include scientific integrity in its research framework agreements.

The US policies will apply not only to agency scientists, but also to political appointees, managers and public-affairs officials. This broad scope is deliberate and intended to avoid a repeat of the alleged

abuses of science that occurred under the administration of former US President George W. Bush (see page 262)

Still, to frame such policies so broadly does bring potential trouble — how should officials apply them to scientists? Vague requirements, such as to approach research objectively and to welcome constructive criticism, are good professional codes of conduct — but they must not be interpreted as a stick with which politically conscious managers can beat scientists to suppress inconvenient scientific findings.

It would be too easy for officials to violate the intended spirit of a loosely worded scientific-integrity policy by claiming that scientists had violated the letter of it. The United States classifies scientific misconduct as falsification, fabrication or plagiarism, and the broad concept of integrity must be coordinated carefully with that narrow definition. And, of course, good policies are not enough if they are not implemented wisely. To that end, US federal agencies must continue to improve their practices through training for managers of scientific staff, and ensure that they turn to the proper scientific expertise when misconduct is alleged. ■

# How Detect Plagiarism ?

- A good knowledge of the literature
- software arXiv: physics, maths, informatics, non linear science and quantitative science

Source :

<http://www.math.columbia.edu/~woit/wordpress/?p=590>



**BIOINFORMATICS ORIGINAL PAPER**

Vol. 26 no. 11 2010, pages 1453–1457  
doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btq146

*Data and text mining*

## **Identifying duplicate content using statistically improbable phrases**

Mounir Errami<sup>1,\*</sup>, Zhaohui Sun<sup>2</sup>, Angela C. George<sup>3</sup>, Tara C. Long<sup>2</sup>, Michael A. Skinner<sup>4</sup>, Jonathan D. Wren<sup>5</sup> and Harold R. Garner<sup>2</sup>

# HELP !



<http://etest.vbi.vt.edu/etblast3/>

**eTBLAST: a text-similarity based search engine**

Home

ARGH

Deja Vu

Pair  
Comparison

For clients

My eTBLAST

APIs

Quick Guide

<http://spore.vbi.vt.edu/dejavu/>

## Deja vu

A study of scientific publication  
ethics

Home

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Report

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Statistics

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References



Powered by eTBLAST  
Innovation Labs  
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute



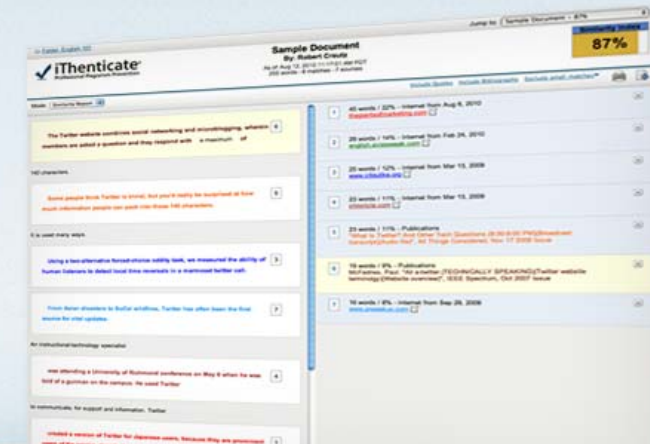
# THE LEADER

## in PROFESSIONAL PLAGIARISM PREVENTION

*iThenticate checks written work for duplicate and unattributed content against the world's largest comparison database, providing in-depth reports in minutes. Ensure work is original before publication.*

AUTHORS & RESEARCHERS

ORGANIZATIONS



E-mail

Créer un compte

Mot de passe

Récupérer le mot de passe

Connexion

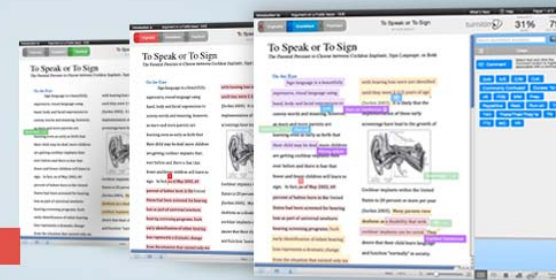
Langues: Français

### Une Solution Complète pour l'Évaluation des Travaux écrits

- Pour garantir l'authenticité
- Pour corriger les copies
- Pour faciliter les évaluations entre étudiants

EN SAVOIR PLUS

OBTENIR UN DEVIS



# « Canada Dry » Syndrome

« *Ça ressemble à l'alcool, c'est doré comme l'alcool... mais ce n'est pas de l'alcool* »

« *It looks like Science, formatted as Science, ... but it is not Science.* »



# A Study Example

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND  
CONSERVATION

[www.academicjournals.org/IJBC](http://www.academicjournals.org/IJBC)

Invitation to Review: IJBC-11-188

Dear Colleague,

We received a manuscript titled: **Impact of swell hunting disperser animals on seedling recruitment of tree *Baillonella toxisperma* Pierre in the rain forests of Congo**

I wish to inquire if you can create time to review this manuscript and send it to us within 14 days.

Find below the abstract of the manuscript.

## Abstract

*Baillonella toxisperma* Pierre (Sapotaceae) seeds are a non-timber forest product and depend on dispersal by scatter-hoarding wild animals for survival and seedling establishment. Increased recruitment failure under intense seed harvesting suggests that seed extraction intensifies source limitation. Nevertheless, areas where more seeds are collected tend to also have more intense hunting of seed dispersing animals. The aim of was to find whether such hunting, by limiting disperser activity, could cause quantitative dispersal limitation. In each of four *B. toxisperma* populations in Congo, two with hunting and two without, Seed was compared seed fate for individual trees varying in crop size in years of high and low population-level seed abundance. Results shown that hunting negatively affected the proportion of seeds dispersed and caused greater numbers of seeds to germinate or be infested by moths below parent trees, where they would likely die. Hunting of seed-dispersing animals disproportionately affected large seed crops, but we found no additional effect of population-level seed abundance on dispersal rates. Consistently lower rates of seed dispersal, especially for large seed crops, may translate to lower levels of seedling recruitment under hunting. These results therefore suggest that the subsistence hunting that usually accompanies seed collection is at the cost of seed dispersal and may contribute to recruitment failure of these non-timber forest products. Seed extraction from natural populations may affect seedling recruitment less if accompanied by measures adequately incorporating and protecting seed dispersers.

**Key words:** Non-timber forest products, *Baillonella toxisperma*, recruitment limitation, scatter-hoarding wild animal, seed dispersal, seed extraction



Image : [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You%27ve\\_Got\\_Mail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/You%27ve_Got_Mail)

# The submitted ms was a false one

- It was the copy of this article:
- 

## **Hunting Increases Dispersal Limitation in the Tree *Carapa procera*, a Nontimber Forest Product**

PIERRE-MICHEL FORGET\* AND PATRICK A. JANSEN†‡

\*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Département Ecologie et Gestion de la Biodiversité, UMR 5176 CNRS-MNHN,  
4 Avenue du Petit Château, F-91800 Brunoy, France, email pmf@mnhn.fr

†Wageningen University, Centre for Ecosystem Studies, P.O. Box 47, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands

Conservation Biology Volume 21, No. 1, 106–113  
©2007 Society for Conservation Biology  
DOI: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00590.x

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00590.x/full>

Déctected using eTBLAST - <http://etest.vbi.vt.edu/etblast3/>  
Score: 2586.95    Ratio:0.98

### A Matched Document in MEDLINE:

**Title**        Hunting increases dispersal limitation in the tree *Carapa procera*, a nontimber forest product.

**PMID**        17298516

**Abstract**    The sustainability of seed extraction from natural populations has been questioned recently. Increased recruitment failure under intense seed harvesting suggests that seed extraction intensifies source limitation. Nevertheless, areas where more seeds are collected tend to also have more intense hunting of seed-dispersing animals. We studied whether such hunting, by limiting disperser activity, could cause quantitative dispersal limitation, especially for large crops and for crops in years of high seed abundance. In each of four *Carapa procera* (Meliaceae) populations in French Guiana and Surinam, two with hunting and two without, we compared seed fate for individual trees varying in crop size in years of high and low population-level seed abundance. *Carapa* seeds are a nontimber forest product and depend on dispersal by scatter-hoarding rodents for survival and seedling establishment. Hunting negatively affected the proportion of seeds dispersed and caused greater numbers of seeds to germinate or be infested by moths below parent trees, where they would likely die. Hunting of seed-dispersing animals disproportionately affected large seed crops, but we found no additional effect of population-level seed abundance on dispersal rates. Consistently lower rates of seed dispersal, especially for large seed crops, may translate to lower levels of seedling recruitment under hunting. Our results therefore suggest that the subsistence hunting that usually accompanies seed collection is at the cost of seed dispersal and may contribute to recruitment failure of these nontimber forest products. Seed extraction from natural populations may affect seedling recruitment less if accompanied by measures adequately incorporating and protecting seed dispersers.

**Authors**     Patrick A Jansen , Pierre-Michel Forget

**Journal Title**    Conservation biology : the journal of the Society for Conservat

**Journal ISSN**    0888-8892

**Year**            2007

**Month**          Feb

**Affiliation**    Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Département Ecologie et Gestion de la Biodiversité, UMR 5176 CNRS-MNHN, 4 Avenue du Petit Château, F-91800 Brunoy, France. pmf@mnhn.fr

**PubMed link**    [Access PMID:17298516 through PubMed](http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17298516/)

<http://etest.vbi.vt.edu/etblast3/search/details?db=MEDLINE&docid=2390529&queryid=6452133>

# Study Sites

Forget & Jansen (2007)

Table 1. Data on study site and *Carapa* populations examined.\*

Country	Treatment	Years sampled	Site	Location	Elevation (m asl)	Mean rainfall (mm/yr)	Reference
French Guiana	hunting	2002/2003	Paracou	5° 18' N, 52° 53' W	10-45	2990	Gourlet-Fleury et al. 2004
French Guiana	control	2002/2003	Nouragues	4° 5' N, 52° 41' W	80-110	3041	Bongers et al. 2001
Surinam	hunting	2003/2004	Witi Kreek	4° 55' N, 55° 10' W	50	>2000	Norconk et al. 2003
Surinam	control	2004	Brownsberg	5° 01' N, 55° 34' W	473	>2000	Norconk et al. 2003

\*All sites were in old-growth evergreen tropical wet forest.

Pangou *et al.* (submitted to IJBC, 2011) (table size has been adapted)

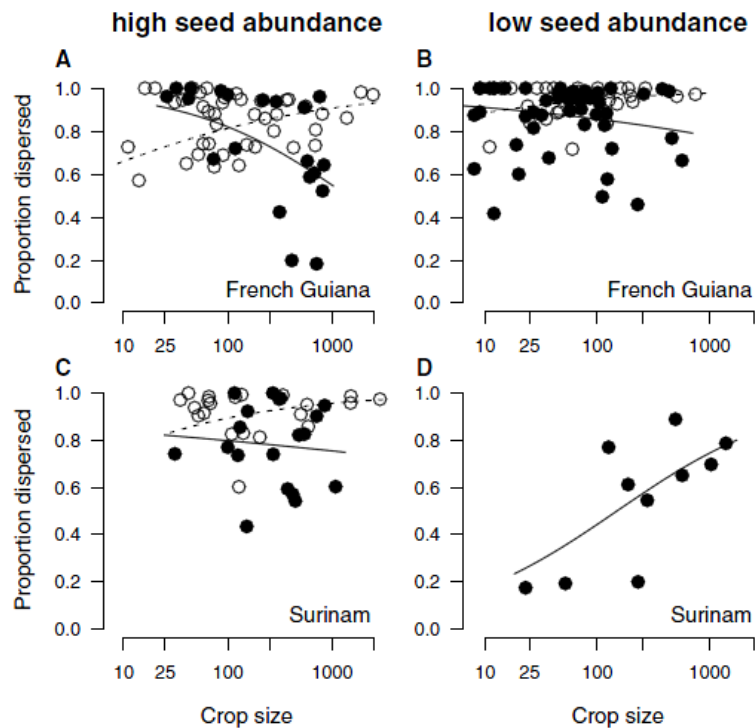
Table 1. Data on study site and *Baillonella* populations examined\*

Department	Treatment	Years sampled	Site	Location	Elevation (m asl)	Mean rainfall (mm/yr)	Reference
Likouala	hunting	2008/2009	Impfondo	18°03'E-1°93'N	350-650	2500	Bouka et al., 2007
Likouala	control	2008/2009	Enyele	17°63'E-3°33'N	275-400	2890	Bouka et al., 2007
Kouilou	hunting	2009/2010	Dimonika	12°26'E-4°13'S	325-450	2000	Pangou et al., 2007
Kouilou	control	2009/2010	Holle	12°27'E-4°12'S	15-50	1800	Pangou et al., 2007

\*All sites were in old-growth evergreen tropical wet forest.

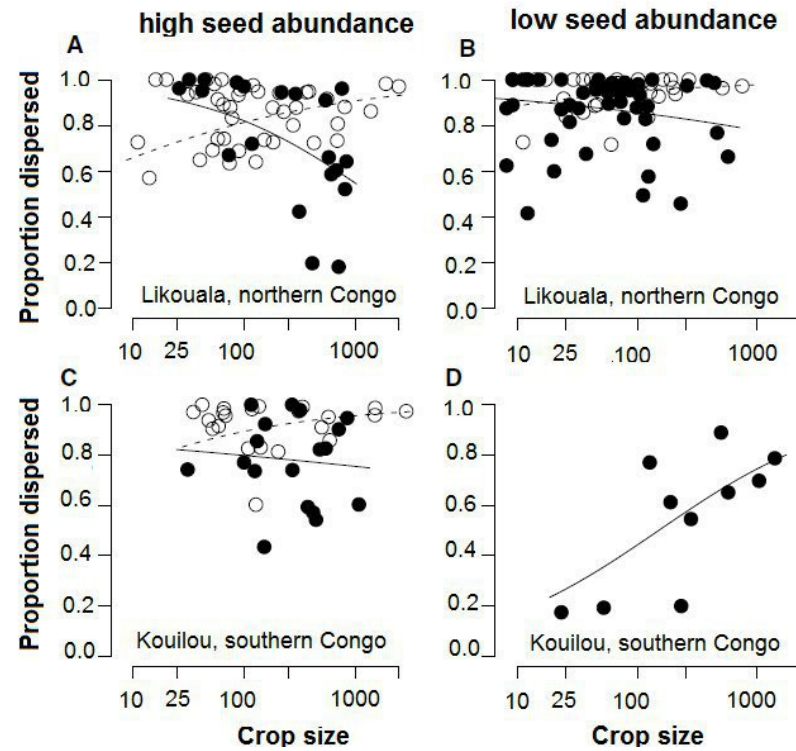
# Results

Forget & Jansen (2007)



*Figure 2. Proportion of seeds dispersed as a function of crop size for C. procer trees in hunted areas (filled circles, solid lines) and protected areas (open circles, broken lines) in years of high (a and c) and low fruit abundance (b and d). Circles represent the*

Pangou *et al.* (submitted to IJBC, 2011)



**Figure 2.** Proportion of seeds dispersed as a function of crop size for *B. toxisperma* trees in hunted areas (filled circles, solid lines) and protected areas (open circles, broken lines) in years of high (a and c) and low fruit abundance (b and d). [...]

# Conclusion

Forget & Jansen (2007)

The subsistence hunting that usually accompanies seed extraction is at the cost of seed dispersal and may contribute to recruitment failure of these NTFPs. Seed extraction from natural populations may less affect seedling recruitment and therefore be more sustainable if accompanied by measures adequately incorporating and protecting seed dispersers.

Pangou *et al.* (submitted to IJBC, 2011)

**“The subsistence hunting that usually accompanies seed extraction is at the cost of seed dispersal and may contribute to recruitment failure of these non-timber forest products. Seed extraction from natural populations may less affect seedling recruitment and therefore be more sustainable if accompanied by measures adequately incorporating and protecting seed dispersers. To conclude, the decline of wild herbivores - even if small - does threaten the long-term survival of the commercial tree species.”**



# IJBC Editor's Answer to the Author

E-mail from the Editor of IJBC to the first Author dated Tue, 23 Aug 2011 11:03:23 +0100  
[12:03:23 CEST]

“Dear Dr. Pangou,

We wish to inform you that a decision has been reached by the International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation (IJBC) to remove the article with title '**Impact of swell hunting disperser animals on seedling recruitment of tree *Baillonella toxisperma* Pierre in the rain forests of Congo**' and manuscript number IJBC-11-188 from our data base. We have been reliably informed that the entire article was plagiarize as seen in the link below <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2006.00590.x/full>

The article is hereby withdrawn from our data base.

Regards,

Tega Dedevo

Editorial assistant,

International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation (IJBC).

# The « Author »

G.E.R.D.I.B. (Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversite Biologique.

Ministère de la Recherche scientifique et de l'innovation technique.

**Serge Valentin Pangou** : Directeur du GERDIB. Général de l'Economie Forestière.

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2012/03/08/plagiarism-leads-to-seven-retractions-and-counting-in-the-conservation-literature/#more-6781>

## Retraction Watch

Tracking retractions

### Plagiarism leads to seven retractions (and counting) in the conservation literature

with 18 comments

An ecology researcher in the Congo has found himself at the center of a plagiarism scandal that has felled seven of his papers.

As [Science reports today](#), [Serge Valentin Pangou's](#) work began unraveling in August 2011 after Wageningen University ecologist [Patrick Jansen](#) thought a paper he'd been asked to review for the *International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation* seemed familiar — because he'd written many of the same words in a 2007 paper in *Conservation Biology*. He ran the manuscript through the plagiarism detection software Turnitin, and sure enough, it was about 90% identical.

Unfortunately for Pangou, Jansen's co-author on the *Conservation Biology* paper was [Pierre-Michel Forget](#), whose father, as *Science* notes, "was a well-known private detective in France." Forget and Jansen took a careful look at a number of Pangou's papers,



Serge Valentin Pangou

“concluding that at least nine of them, published between 2006 and 2011, were plagiarized in whole or in part. An investigation by *Science* supports Forget's conclusions and also finds that some of Pangou's co-authors were unaware that their names were used.

# The thorough investigation Pierre-Michel Forget (MNHN)

- **Material**

- One computer with a good internet connection
- Google ®
  - Pangou SV or Pangou Serge Valentin
- ISI Web of Knowledge ® Thomson Reuters
  - « Pangou OR Pangou Serge Valentin »
- Access to on-line journals thru MNHN library & BiblioVie (CNRS)

- **Method**

- Several hours per day of intensive search on the web, and readings.
- Manual/visual comparison of documents

MUSÉUM  
NATIONAL  
D'HISTOIRE  
NATURELLE

Catalogue des  
*muscat*  
bibliothèques



# Results : Citations in ISI Web of Knowledge ® Thomson Reuters (available dated 09 July 2012)

- Title: [Evaluation of seed rain from remnant trees in fields for food crops in the tropical wet forest of Mayombe \(Central Congo\)](#)  
Author(s): Pangou Valentin Serge; Zassi-Boulou Ange Ghislain; Bouki Theophile; et al.  
Source: CANDOLLEA Volume: 64 Issue: 2 Pages: 219-235 Published: 2009  
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
- Title: [Effects of temperature and water potential on germination of Entandrophragma cylindricum \(Sprague\) seeds of different provenances](#)  
Author(s): Pangou S. V.; De Zoysa N.; Tsouboula M. L.; et al.  
Source: SEED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Volume: 36 Issue: 2 Pages: 462-466 Published: 2008  
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
- Title: [Characteristic of natural regeneration of Aucoumea klaineana \(Pierre\) in Mayombe rain forest, southern Congo](#)  
Author(s): Pangou Serge Valentin; Lechon Gema; Bouki Theophile; et al.  
Source: AFRICAN JOURNAL OF ECOLOGY Volume: 45 Issue: 2 Pages: 156-164 DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.2006.00690.x Published: JUN 2007  
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)
- Title: [Seed storage behaviour of three tropical tree species from Congo \(Africa\)](#)  
Author(s): Pangou S. V.; De Zoysa N.; Maury-Lechon G.  
Source: SEED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Volume: 34 Issue: 3 Pages: 765-770 Published: 2006  
Times Cited: 0 (from Web of Science)

RETRACTED

RETRACTED

RETRACTED

RETRACTED

Full length Research Paper

## Tree selection for fruit/seed production in *Carapa procera* D.C. from wild stands in the rain forest of Congo

Pangou Valentin Serg, Simona Florence Dorothée, Lechon Gema

<sup>1</sup>\*Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique, BP 876, Brazzaville-Congo.

<sup>2</sup>Centre d'Etude sur les Ressources Végétales, Brazzaville-Congo

<sup>3</sup>LA 245 CNRS Saint-Fargeau, France

Accepted 10 June, 2011

<http://interestjournals.org/IRJPS/Contents/2011%20Content/May.htm>

Food Chemistry 126 (2011) 1579–1585



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Food Chemistry

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchem](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/foodchem)



Tree-to-tree variation in stearic and oleic acid content in seed fat from *Allanblackia floribunda* from wild stands: Potential for tree breeding

Alain R. Atangana<sup>a,\*</sup>, Erik van der Vlis<sup>b</sup>, Damase P. Khasa<sup>a</sup>, Dennis van Houten<sup>b</sup>, Jean Beaulieu<sup>c</sup>, Harrie Hendrickx<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Center for Forest Research (CEF), Faculty of Forestry and Geomatics, Pavillon Marchand, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada G1K 7P4

<sup>b</sup> Unilever Research and Development Vlaardingen, Olivier van Noortlaan 120, 3133 AT, PO Box 114, 3130 AC Vlaardingen, The Netherlands

<sup>c</sup> Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Wood Fibre Centre, 1055, rue du P.E.P.S., PO Box 10380, Stn. Sainte-Foy, Quebec, Canada G1V 4C7

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308814610016328>

# *Carapa* vs. *Allanblackia*



© P.-M. Forget

<http://berniceagyekwena.wordpress.com/tag/allanblackia/>

# *Carapa* vs. *Allanblackia*



Rwanda, Ph D Aisha  
Nyiramana, MNHN.

Photo © Nyiramana, A.

Source : [Evidence for Seed Dispersal  
by Rodents in Tropical Montane  
Forest in Africa](#). Biotropica  
43(6)654–657



Tanzania, Ph D. Carrie  
Seltzer, Univ. Chicago

[http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/carrie\\_seltzer](http://www.ruffordsmallgrants.org/rsg/projects/carrie_seltzer)



# Alcantana (2011) vs. Pangou *et al.* (2011)

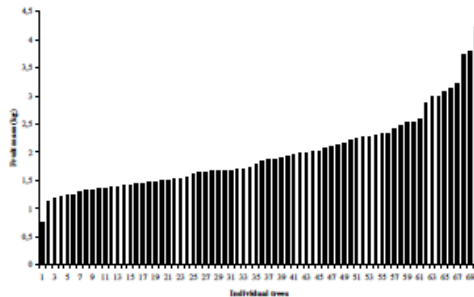


Figure 2.3. Tree-to-tree variation in fruit mass in *Allambiackia floribunda* from wild stands in Cameroon.

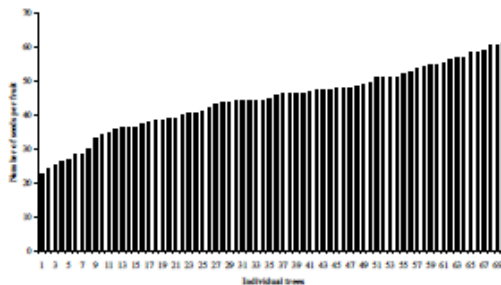


Figure 2.4. Tree-to-tree variation in seed number per fruit in *Allambiackia floribunda* from wild stands in Cameroon.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308814610016328>

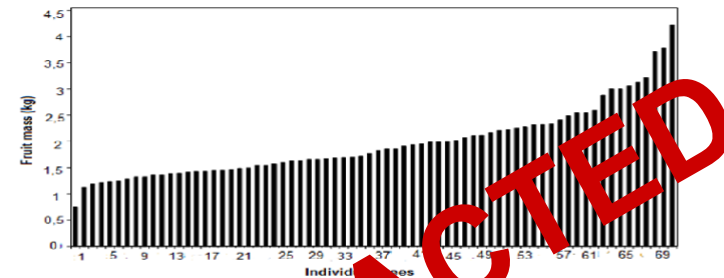


Figure 2. Tree-to-tree variation in fruit mass in *Carapa procera* from wild stands in Congo.

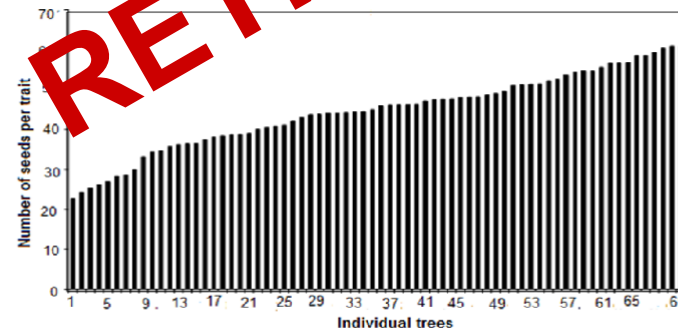


Figure 3. Tree-to-tree variation in seed number per fruit in *Carapa procera* from wild stands in Congo.

<http://interesjournals.org/IRJPS/Contents/2011%20Content/May.htm>

# Evaluation de la pluie de graines d'arbres isolés dans les cultures vivrières en région de forêt tropicale humide du Mayombe (Congo Méridional)

Valentin Serge Pangou, Ang Gbislain Zassi-Boulou, Théophile Bouki & Gema Lechon

[http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb/publications\\_candollea\\_642.php](http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb/publications_candollea_642.php)

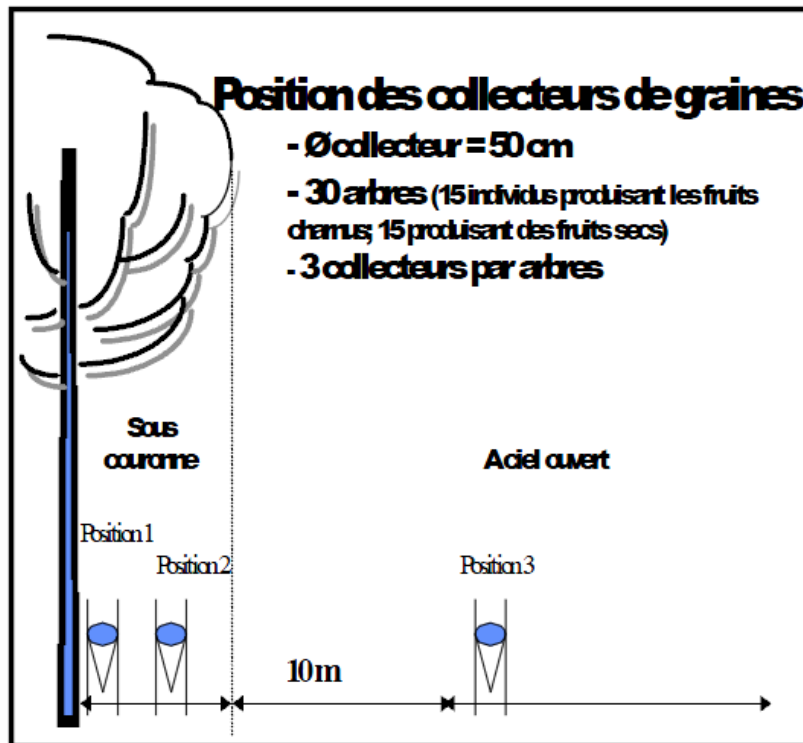
*Journal of Tropical Ecology* (2002) 18:353–374. With 4 figures. Copyright © 2002 Cambridge University Press  
DOI:10.1017/S0266467402002250 Printed in the United Kingdom

## Seed rain beneath remnant trees in a slash-and-burn agricultural system in southern Cameroon

STÉPHANIE M. CARRIÈRE\*†<sup>1</sup>, MATHIEU ANDRÉ\*, PHILIPPE LETOURMY‡, ISABELLE OLIVIER\* and DOYLE B. McKEY\*†

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=100033>

# Carrière et al. (1999, 2002) vs. Pangou et al. (2009)



Carrière (1999). "LES ORPHELINS DE LA FORET« Influence de l'agriculture itinérante sur brûlis des Ntumu et des pratiques agricoles associées sur la dynamique forestière du sud Cameroun. Thèse de doctorat, Montpellier II.

222 - Candollea 64, 2009

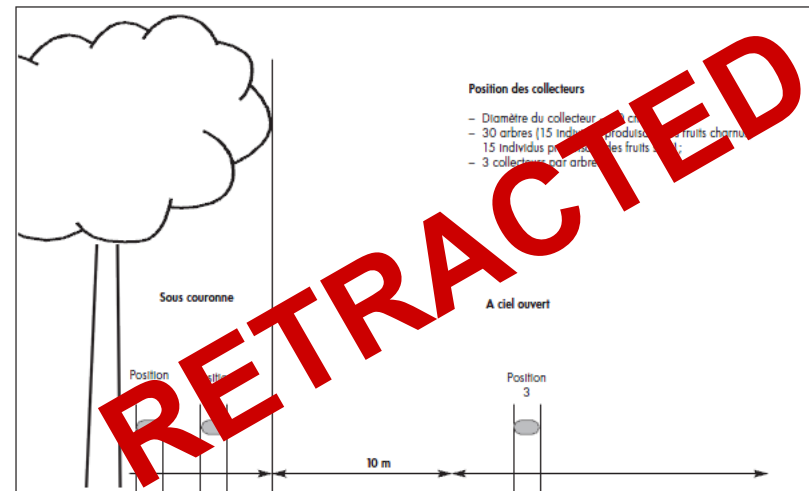


Fig. 1. - Disposition des collecteurs de graines sous les arbres dans les champs.

*Full length Research Paper*

## **Influence of climate on the yearly fluctuations of flowering of *Pterocarpus soyauxii* Faubert. at Mayombe in Congo**

Pangou VS<sup>1\*</sup>, Bouki T<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1\*</sup>Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique, BP 876, Brazzaville-Congo.

<sup>2</sup>Laboratoire Dynamiques Sociales et Composition des Espaces (LADYSS), Université de Paris X, Nanterre, France

Accepted 11 March, 2011

<http://interesjournals.org/IRJPS/Pdf/2011/March/Pangou%20and%20Bouki.pdf>

Chapitre 2

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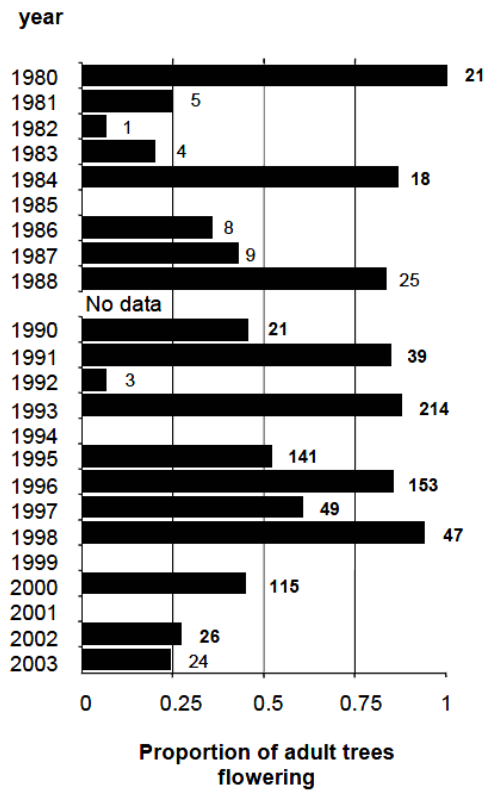
### **A. MASTING BEHAVIOR AND CLIMATIC CONTROL OF FLOWERING IN A NEOTROPICAL CANOPY TREE : DICORYNIA GUIANENSIS (CAESALPINIACEAE) IN FRENCH GUIANA**

(Article in preparation)

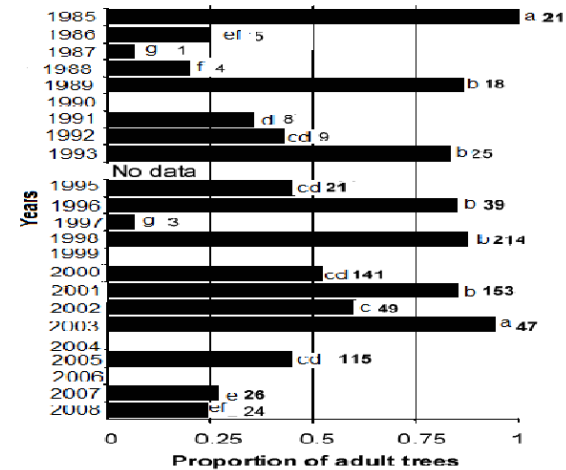
Jésel, S. Thèse Univ Pierre et Marie Curie (2005)

<http://bib.rilk.com/2989/01/05- Chap. 2 - Ph%C3%A9nologie de la reproduction.pdf>

# Jesel (2005) vs Pangou *et al.* 2011



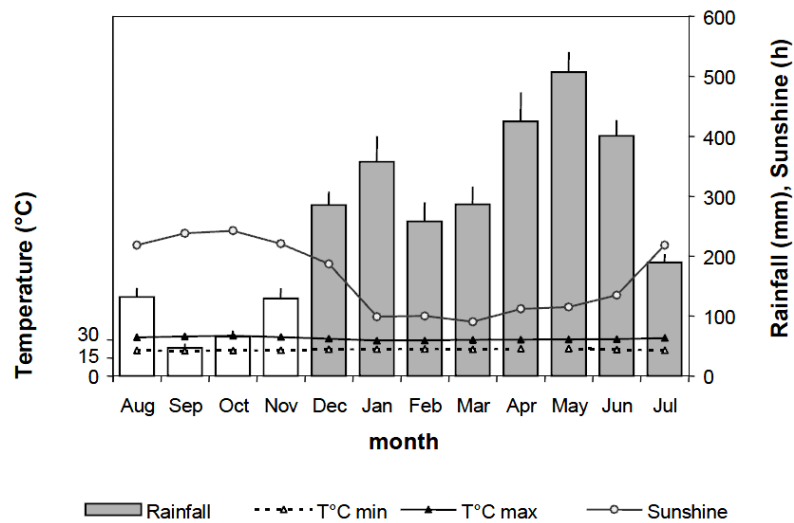
**Figure 2A.2.** Variation in population flowering effort of *D. guianensis* over 24 years in the vicinity of Paracou, French Guiana. The size of population sample monitored differ among year with a minimum of 21 individuals (see Table 2A.1). The number of flowering individuals is indicated at the end of each bar.



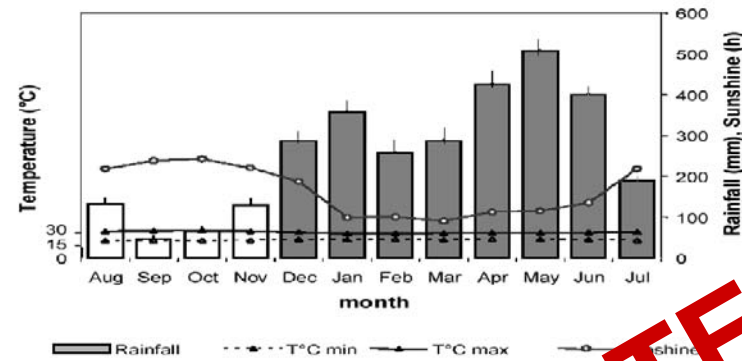
**Figure 2.** Variation in population flowering effort of *Pterocarpus soyannensis* over 24 years in the vicinity of Dimonika at Mayombe rain forest in Congo. The size of population sample monitored differs among year with a minimum of 21 individuals (see Table 1). The number of flowering individuals is indicated at the end of each bar. Proportions followed by the same letters are not significantly different (Mann-Whitney test, P values <0.01).

**RETRACTED**

# Jesel (2005) vs Pangou *et al.* 2011



**Figure 2A.1.** Annual climate pattern at Paracou, French Guiana (5°15'N; 52°55'W) over 1979-2002. Average total annual rainfall is 3081 ± SE 143 mm (N = 24 years). Monthly climate data are as follows: mean (+SD) rainfall for 1979-2002; mean number of sunshine hours for 1989-1991; mean maximum and mean minimum temperature for 1995-2002 (see Table 2A.2 for sources). Open bars are dry-season months.



**Figure 1.** Annual climate pattern of Dimonika (12°26'E; 4°12'S) at Mayombe forest in Congo, over 1984-2007. Average total annual rainfall is 3081 ± SE 143 mm (N = 24 years). Monthly climate data are as follows: mean (+SD) rainfall for 1979-2002; mean number of sunshine hours for 1994-1996; mean maximum and mean minimum temperature for 2000-2007 (see Table 2 for sources). Open bars are dry-season months.

**RETRACTED**

# Fake –True References

**Koyo P & Binguila J. (1994).** Evolution spatiale des agrégats du Padouk (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*, Fabaceae) dans la forêt à légumineuse de Dimonika, Mayombe, Congo. *Acta Botanica Gallica* **141(3)**: 351-359. **FAKE**

**Kokou, K. (1994)** Evolution spatiale des agrégats d'Angélique de Guyane (*Dicorynia guianensis*) sur le dispositif d'étude "forêt naturelle" de Paracou en Guyane française. *Acta botanica gallica*, Vol.141 (3), p. 351-359. **TRUE**

**Bibila AR, Makosso AZ and Tathy JC (2006).** Domestication of *Carapa procera*: Amenability to vegetative propagation. *Forest Ecology and Management* **237**: 246-251. **FAKE**

**Atangana, A.R., Z. Tchoundjeu, E.K. Asaah, A.J. Simons, and D.P. Khasa 2006.** Domestication of *Allanblackia floribunda*: Amenability to vegetative propagation. *Forest Ecology and Management* **237**: 246-251. **TRUE**

**Bongou V, Chistopher C (1989).** Impact of road side agriculture on subsistence hunting in the rainforests of Congo. *Amer. J. Phys. Anthrop.* **1989, 78, 485-494.** **FAKE**

**Wilkie, DS (1989).** Impact of roadside agriculture on subsistence hunting in the Ituri forest of northeastern Zaire. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, **78, 485-494.** **TRUE**

# Perera (2002) vs. Pangou et al. (2007)

Vegetation and the regeneration of moist deciduous forests at Sigiriya, Sri Lanka, by G. A. D. Perera (2002)

<http://www.pdn.ac.lk/socs/botanysoc/vegetation%20and%20the%20regeneration.doc>



Figure 1. Density of tree and shrub species at Sigiriya and Gallinda high forests with 95% confidence limits;

Vegetation and the natural regeneration in Mayombe rain forest southern Congo. Pangou VS, De Zoysa N, Bouki T Scientia. 89, 2007, 1852-1859.

**Not found on line**

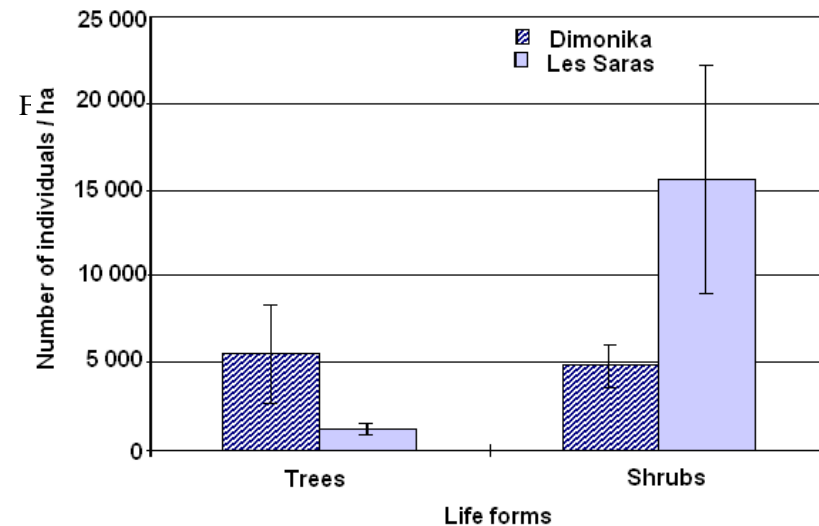


Figure 2. Density of tree and shrub species at Dimonika and Les Saras high forests with 95% confidence limits.



# Characteristic of natural regeneration of *Aucoumea klaineana* (Pierre) in Mayombe rain forest, southern Congo

Serge Valentin Pangou<sup>1\*</sup>, Gema Lechon<sup>2</sup>, Théophile Bouki<sup>3</sup> and Antoine Mountanda<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Laboratoire de Botanique, Centre d'Etude sur les Ressources Végétales, BP 876 Brazzaville, Congo, <sup>2</sup>Laboratoire des stades juvéniles des ligneux, LA 218 CNRS, 8 rue Max, Pautrat 89170, Saint-Florentin, France, <sup>3</sup>Laboratoire Dynamiques Sociales et Recomposition des Espaces (LADYSS), à l'Université de Paris, Nanterre, France and <sup>4</sup>Service National de Reboisement, BP 839 Pointe-Noire, Congo

© 2006 The Authors. Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Afr. J. Ecol.*, **45**, 156–164

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2028.2006.00690.x/full>

## Density and population structure of the natural regeneration of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) in the High Ebro Basin (Northern Spain)

Santiago C. González-Martínez<sup>#,\*</sup> and Felipe Bravo

Departamento de Producción Vegetal y Silvopiscicultura, University of Valladolid at Palencia,  
Avda. de Madrid, 57, 34004 Palencia, Spain

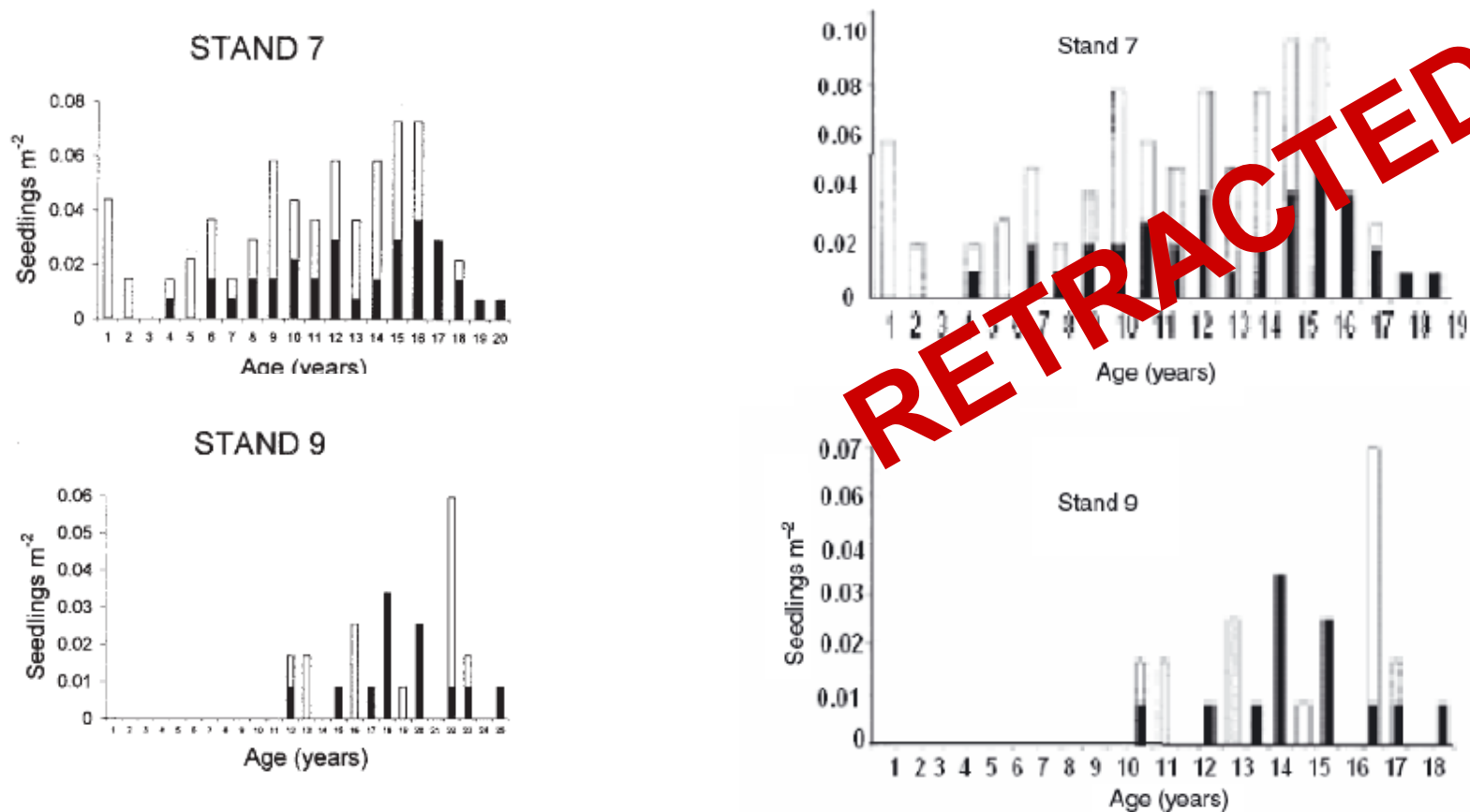
(Received 18 February 2000; accepted 21 August 2000)

*Ann. For. Sci.* **58** (2001) 277–288

© INRA, EDP Sciences, 2001

<http://cat.inist.fr/?aModele=afficheN&cpsidt=955008>

# González-Martínez et al. (2001) vs. Pangou et al. (2006)



**Figure 2.** Age structure of 11 natural regenerated stands in the High Ebro Basin (Northern Spain). White bars indicate suppressed or injured seedlings.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2028.2006.00690.x/full>

# Carrière et al. (1999, 2002) vs. Pangou et al. (2009)

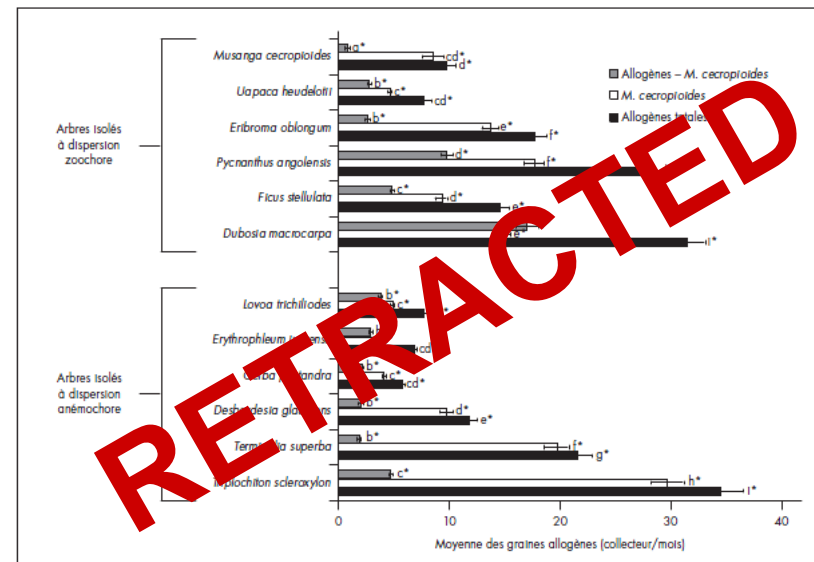
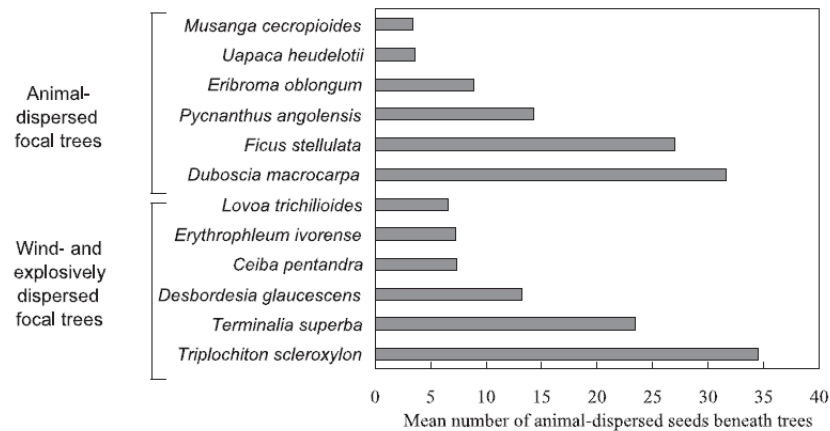


Fig. 5. - Nombre moyen total de graines allogènes par espèce d'arbre isolé. Il est présenté: le nombre total de graines allogènes; le nombre de graines de *Musanga cecropioides* Tedié et le nombre de graines des autres espèces. Les valeurs [moyenne ± erreur standard] suivies de la même lettre ne sont pas significativement différentes (\* =  $P < 0,05$ ).

# RETRACTIONS

Valentin Serge Pangou and Jean Pierre Kampé

XXXXXXXX **Title and content retracted because of plagiarism**

Int. Res. J. Agric. Sci. Soil Sci. 2011 1(7): 278-285 [[Abstract](#)] [[Full Text-PDF](#)] (972 KB)

Serge Valentin Pangou, Neela De Zoysa, Gema Maury, Agathe Massanga and Colette Marie-France Pangou-Yoka

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **Title and content retracted due to plagiarism**

Int. Res. J. Agric. Sci. Soil Sci. 2011 1(8): 307-313 [[Abstract](#)] [[Full Text-PDF](#)] (261 KB)

Pangou VS, Bouki T

XXXXXXXXXXXX **Title and content retracted due to plagiarism by the Pangou**

Int. Res. J. Plant Sci. 2011 2(3): 046-059 [[Abstract](#)] [[Full Text-PDF](#)] (390 KB)

Pangou Valentin Serge, Sianard Florence Dorothee, Lechon Gema

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX **Title removed due to plagiarism**

Int. Res. J. Plant Sci. 2011 2(5): 143-153 [[Abstract](#)] [[Full Text-PDF](#)] (946KB)

Serge Valentin Pangou, De Zoysa Neela, Lechon Gema

**Title and content removed because the work was plagiarized**

Int. Res. J. Plant Sci. 2011 2(9): 281-287 [[Abstract](#)] [[Full Text-PDF](#)] (89 KB)

**PANGOU, V. S., A. G. ZASSI-BOULOU, T. BOUKI & G. LECHON**

**Title and content removed because the work was plagiarized**

**Titre et texte supprimés pour cause de plagiat**

Pages 219 - 235

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2028.2006.00690.x/abstract>

**THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN RETRACTED: Characteristic of natural regeneration of *Aucoumea klaineana* (Pierre) in Mayombe rain forest, southern Congo**



Serge Valentin Pangou<sup>1,\*</sup>, Gema Lechon<sup>2</sup>,  
Théophile Bouki<sup>3</sup>, Antoine Mountanda<sup>4</sup>

Article first published online: 3 OCT 2006

DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2028.2006.00690.x

Issue



African Journal of Ecology  
Volume 45, Issue 2, pages  
156–164, June 2007

The following article from *African Journal of Ecology*, 'Characteristic of natural regeneration of *Aucoumea klaineana* (Pierre) in Mayombe rain forest, southern Congo' by Serge Valentin Pangou, Gema Lechon, Théophile Bouki and Antoine Mountanda, first published online in Wiley Online Library (<http://www.wileyonlinelibrary.com>) on 3rd October 2006, and in volume 45, issue 2, pp. 156–164, has been retracted with the agreement of the journal Editor in Chief, Frederick Kayanja, and Blackwell Publishing Ltd. The retraction has been agreed due to unacknowledged overlap with 'Density and population structure of the natural regeneration of Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) in the High Ebro Basin (Northern Spain)' by Santiago C. González-Martínez, and Felipe Bravo, *Annals of Forest Science* (2001), Vol 58, issue 2, pp. 277–288.

<http://www.scirp.org/Journal/PaperInformation.aspx?paperID=7594>



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 **AJPS >> Vol.2 No.3, September 2011**

## **Effects of Soil Properties on Growth of Young Tree Seedling in Logged-over Tropical Rain Forest in Mayombe, Congo**

[Full Text\(PDF, 6KB\)](#) PP.0-0 [DOI:](#)

### **Announcement from Editorial Board**

The following article has been retracted due to the request of the Editor-in-Chief as it violates the policy of the Journal. Articles which plagiarize others' research are not suitable for publishing. Because this article has a 50% overlap to a published paper, the scientific community takes a very strong view on this matter and we apologize to readers of the journal that this was not detected during the review process.

Title: Effects of Soil Properties on Growth of Young Tree Seedling in Logged-over Tropical Rain Forest in Mayombe, Congo

Corresponding Author: Serge Valentin Pangou




AJPS Editorial Board

# Deleted Article (pp. 150-164)

Agronomie Africaine > Vol 20, No 2 (2008) > Pangou

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 Open Access  Subscription Access

Font Size:   

## Influence du prétraitement à l'acide sulfurique, l'acide gibbérellique et la cellulase sur la germination des graines de *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sprague) Sprague (Meliaceae)

SV Pangou, JP Kampe, ND Zoysa, G Lechon

**Agronomie Africaine:**

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Journal Home > Archives > Vol 20, No 2 (2008)

---

## Vol 20, No 2 (2008)

 Open Access  Subscription Access

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#### Articles

[Germination et accumulation des métabolites chez les plantules de légumineuses cultivées sous stress salin](#)

VD Taffouo, L Meguekam, M Kenne, E Yayi, A Magnitsop, A Akoa, A Ourry

[EMAIL FULL TEXT](#) 

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129-139

[Influence des conditions de culture et du substrat sur le développement des boutures de l'oseille de Guinée : \*Hibiscus sabdariffa\* L. \(Malvaceae\)](#)

RS Rie, D Akaffou, D Kone, DO Dogbo, V Assohoun, G Charles, M Branchard

[EMAIL FULL TEXT](#) 

[DOWNLOAD FULL TEXT](#) 

141-149

[Effets à long terme des fumures minérales et organo-minérales sur la dynamique du phosphore dans un lixisol au Burkina Faso](#)

F Lompo, M Bonzi, BV Bado, Z Gnankambary, N Ouandaogo, MP Sedogo, A Assa

[EMAIL FULL TEXT](#) 

[DOWNLOAD FULL TEXT](#) 

165-178

# Recent retractions

## (mail dated 06 July & 17 September 2012)

Dear Dr. Forget, I am writing to let you know that we are indeed going to retract two papers from Seed Science and Technology, which were first-authored by S.V. Pangou. The retraction notice will appear in the next issue (40-2), which will be published within a few weeks. Thank you for bringing this case of plagiarism to our attention.

The retraction statement was included in the print version of issue 40-2 (July 2012), but there has been a delay showing the retraction statement online. It still has not appeared (at least not when I check), although the two Pangou articles are now marked as RETRACTED from their respective on-line issues.

Yours sincerely, Fiona R. Hay PhD Chief Editor Seed Science and Technology Tel: +63 (2) 580 5600 ext. 2811 E-mail: [sst@ista.ch](mailto:sst@ista.ch)

Effects of temperature and water potential on germination of *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sprague) seeds of different provenances

Authors: Pangou, S.V.; Zoysa, De N.; Tsuboula, M.L.; Lechon, G.

Source: [Seed Science and Technology](#), Volume 34, Number 2, July 2008, pp. 462-466(5)

Seed storage behaviour of three tropical tree species from Congo (Africa)

Authors: Pangou, S.V.; De Zoysa, N.; Maury-Lechon, G.

Source: [Seed Science and Technology](#), Volume 34, Number 3, October 2006, pp. 765-770(6)

Publisher: [International Seed Testing Association](#)





<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/335/6073/1157.summary>

*Science* 9 March 2012:  
Vol. 335 no. 6073 pp. 1157-1158  
DOI: 10.1126/science.335.6073.1157

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## NEWS & ANALYSIS

### SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT

## Reviewer's Déjà Vu, French Science Sleuthing Uncover Plagiarized Papers

**Michael Balter**

An investigation by a French ecologist into papers authored by Serge Valentin Pangou, director of the Study and Research Group on Biological Diversity in the Republic of the Congo, concluded that at least nine contained material plagiarized from other researchers' work. An investigation by *Science* also found that some of Pangou's co-authors were unaware that their names were used. The affair has already led to the retraction of four papers on which Pangou is the corresponding author, as well as the rejection of a paper submitted to the *International Journal of Biodiversity and Conservation*. Pangou tells *Science* that he accepts "all of the responsibility" for the papers that have already been withdrawn, but he contends that he did not deliberately engage in plagiarism, chalking it up to "the abusive utilization of bibliograph[ies]" which he "regrets sincerely." He did, however, admit to *Science* that he added some authors to papers without their knowledge.

## Predatory Publishers and Plagiarism Prevention

M. BALTER ("REVIEWER'S DÉJÀ VU, FRENCH science sleuthing uncover plagiarized papers," *News & Analysis*, 9 March, p. 1157) describes how a scientist recently published at least nine articles that largely or entirely duplicated papers written by others and was exposed only after we found one of our papers integrally copied in a manuscript that both of us coincidentally received for review. What is remarkable here is not only the flagrant fraud, but the fact that six of these papers were published in scholarly journals only last year. Publishers can easily prevent publishing plagiarism by sys-



tematically running submitted manuscripts through software such as CrossCheck and eBlast (1, 2) or by running strings of words that are unlikely to be repeated by chance through search engines (3). It is evident that not all publishers systematically use these tools, despite the fact that plagiarism is common (1, 2). It is also noteworthy that these six 2011 papers—as well as the manuscript for review—are all from journals of publishers that Beall (4) lists as “predatory open-access scholarly publishers.” Such publishers “exploit the author-pays, Open-Access model for their own profit” and do not invest in quality control (4, 5). In this light, it is less surprising that papers escape plagiarism detection today. We argue that publishers that do not systematically use anti-plagiarism tools consciously take the risk of copyright infringement and of being accomplices in plagiarism. We encourage copyright holders to sue publishers of plagiarism for these offenses. When fines become a realistic threat, plagiarism prevention will become valuable even for predatory publishers.

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4. Scholarly Open Access, Beall's list of predatory open-access publishers (2012) (<http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers>).
5. J. Beall, *Charleston Advisor* 11.4, 10 (2010).

# Further Readings

Internet: Fraude et déontologie selon les acteurs universitaires

<http://responsable.unige.ch/index.php>

« Ce site est dédié aux professeurs, étudiants et dirigeants d'établissements universitaires qui refusent de fermer les yeux sur la fraude pratiquée via Internet et découlant du plagiat de mémoires, de thèses, d'articles de recherche et de livres académiques »



Thank you