

## **Instructions to Authors**

### **Manuscript Submission**

Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. All papers are and will be refereed through an expert peer review process. The journal accepts manuscripts submitted for publication within the specified timeframe. Manuscripts shall be submitted to the editorial office at [biotech@hit.ac.zw](mailto:biotech@hit.ac.zw) cc [pdhliway@yahoo.com](mailto:pdhliway@yahoo.com). Individuals making submissions are encouraged to read the editorial policies, publication ethics and HIT Copyright Form before submitting their manuscripts.

### **Important Dates**

Prospective authors please take note of the following important dates;

Deadline for submission of manuscripts for the first issue: *27 July, 2018*

Notification to authors: *31 August, 2018*

Journal publication: *28 September, 2018*

### **Language**

The journal's language is English – either British English or American English are acceptable. However authors please note that the spelling, and terminology used must be consistent throughout the article.

### **Manuscript Presentation**

Manuscript should contain appropriate titles:

1. Abstract with five to seven key words
2. Introduction
3. Materials and Methods
4. Results and Discussion
5. Recommendations or Conclusion
6. Acknowledgements
7. References

Manuscripts should be typed in Times New Roman of 12 pt., 1.5 spacing, with justified margins. The length of paper including text, tables and figures should not exceed 15 pages. Tables and figures may not be placed within the text. A template has been attached at the end of this section for guidance.

## **1. Title**

The title phrase should be brief. Under the title, a list containing the following must be included;

1. Authors' full names (first-name, middle-name, and last-name)
2. Affiliations of authors
3. Emails and phone numbers of the corresponding author.

## **2. Abstract**

Authors are required to provide a short abstract of 250 to 300 words. The abstract should not contain any undefined abbreviations or references.

## **3. Key words**

Please provide five to seven key words. However these key words may not include words appearing in the title of the manuscript.

## **4. Abbreviations**

Words with abbreviations must be written in full on first mention and may only be used for terms that are either unusually long or non-standard.

## **5. Introduction**

The introduction must be clear and concise and should capture the statement of the problem in simple and unambiguous terms. In this section authors should also clearly state the objectives of the work being presented.

## **6. Materials and methods**

Materials and methods should be clearly presented to allow the reproduction of the experiments accurately.

## **7. Results and discussion**

Results and discussion may be combined into a single section or separately when necessary. This section must be comprehensively written.

## **8. Recommendations and or Conclusions**

Recommendations and Conclusions may also be combined into one section or written separately when appropriate. The section presents the authors' own scientific recommendations and conclusions to the work presented.

## **9. Acknowledgments**

Any acknowledgements of people who contributed to the work other than the authors and sources of funding etc. are stated in this section, but must be brief.

## **10. Tables and Figures**

The following applies to tables and figures;

1. They must be numbered consecutively
2. They should be appropriately referred to in the manuscript.
3. Should be kept to a minimum.
4. Should have a short descriptive title.
5. The units of measurement used should be clearly stated.
6. Should be organized in Microsoft Word
7. Figures/Graphics should be prepared in GIF, TIFF, JPEG or PowerPoint.

## **8. References**

Every written article is required to have a reference section. This is a list of any article, journal, textbook or internet source that was consulted for the purposes of writing the article and appears, separately, at the back of the manuscript. All textual sources that are consulted must appear in this section.

### **I. General Requirements**

All textual sources must be listed in alphabetical order, according to authors' surnames at the end of the paper. DOIs, PubMed IDs and links to referenced articles should be stated wherever available. Please view suggested format below.

### **II. System of referencing**

The HIT Journal of Biotechnology shall use the Harvard System of Referencing. Authors please visit any appropriate website for guidance.



**HIT JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**An International Peer Reviewed Journal for Biotechnology**

**Template – January 2017.**

Source; Dhliwayo-Chiunzi, P.D., Matimati, I., Kachigunda, L., and Hove, L., 2014. Collection and Evaluation of Superior Phenotypes of *Uapaca kirkiana* an indigenous fruit tree of Zimbabwe. *International Science and Technology Journal of Namibia (ISTJN)*, 4(1), pp7-22.

**Identification and Selection of Superior Phenotypes of *Uapaca Kirkiana* Muell Arg. (Euphorbiaceae), A Priority Indigenous Fruit Tree of Zimbabwe [Times New Roman, size 12, Bold]**

**Patient D. Dhliwayo-Chiunzi<sup>1</sup>, Ignatious Matimati<sup>2</sup> and Barbara Kachigunda<sup>3</sup>**

**[Times New Roman, Size 12, Bold]**

<sup>1</sup>Harare Institute of Technology, Department of Biotechnology, P. O Box BE 277 Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Horticulture, Faculty of Natural Resources Management and Agriculture, Midlands State University, P. Bag 9055, Gweru.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Natural Resources Management and Agriculture, Midlands State University, P. Bag 9055, Gweru.

**Address for correspondence [Times New Roman, Size 12, Bold]**

Harare Institute of Technology, Department of Biotechnology, P. O Box BE 277 Belvedere, Harare, Zimbabwe.

[pdhliway@yahoo.com](mailto:pdhliway@yahoo.com)

**Abstract [Times New Roman, Size 12, Bold, 1.5 spacing]**

The International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF now known as the World Agroforestry Centre) initiated research and development work on at least 20 priority indigenous fruit trees in 5 countries in Southern Africa including Zimbabwe. The long term objective of this work was to improve food security and income generating capacities of local communities through domestication, marketing and commercialisation of indigenous fruit trees. Country specific priority species were identified based on consultations with a wide range of users. [Times New Roman, Size 12, 1.5 spacing]

### **Introduction [Times New Roman, Size 12, Bold 1.5 spacing]**

*Uapaca kirkiana* Muell Arg. (Euphorbiaceae) is one of the most important fruit trees native to the Miombo ecological zone of Southern Africa (Ngulube, et al., 1995). The tree is reported as a priority species in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania. *U. kirkiana* is a small to medium sized tree of up to 5 – 12m height. It has a characteristic rounded crown and mainly occurs at medium altitudes in open woodland. It is dominant on gravelly soils. The stem bears short and thick branches with simple alternating leaves arranged in clusters. *U. kirkiana* is a dioecious that bears male and female flowers on separate plants. The male and female flowers are yellow green in colour and globose in shape (Ramadhani, 2002; Ngulube, et al., 1997). The fruits of *U. kirkiana* known as mazhanje or mashuku in Shona are spherical in shape with a rather hard skin surrounding an edible pulp. Flowers and fruits are set during the rainy season, and fruits mature from September to December (FAO, 1986). Fruits are collected for utilisation around the month of October to around February. [Times New Roman, Size 12, 1.5 spacing]

### **Methodology**

#### **Identification of *U. kirkiana* growing areas [Times New Roman, Size 12, 1.5 spacing]**

In order to identify major *U. kirkiana* natural stands, consultations were held with extension workers, Forestry Commission, farmer key informants, school children, vendors and traders. Information about source areas and desirable traits for fresh consumption and for processing into various products were collected from workshop participants using a checklist and a structured survey questionnaire administered during village workshops and interviews held in the respective areas.

### **References**

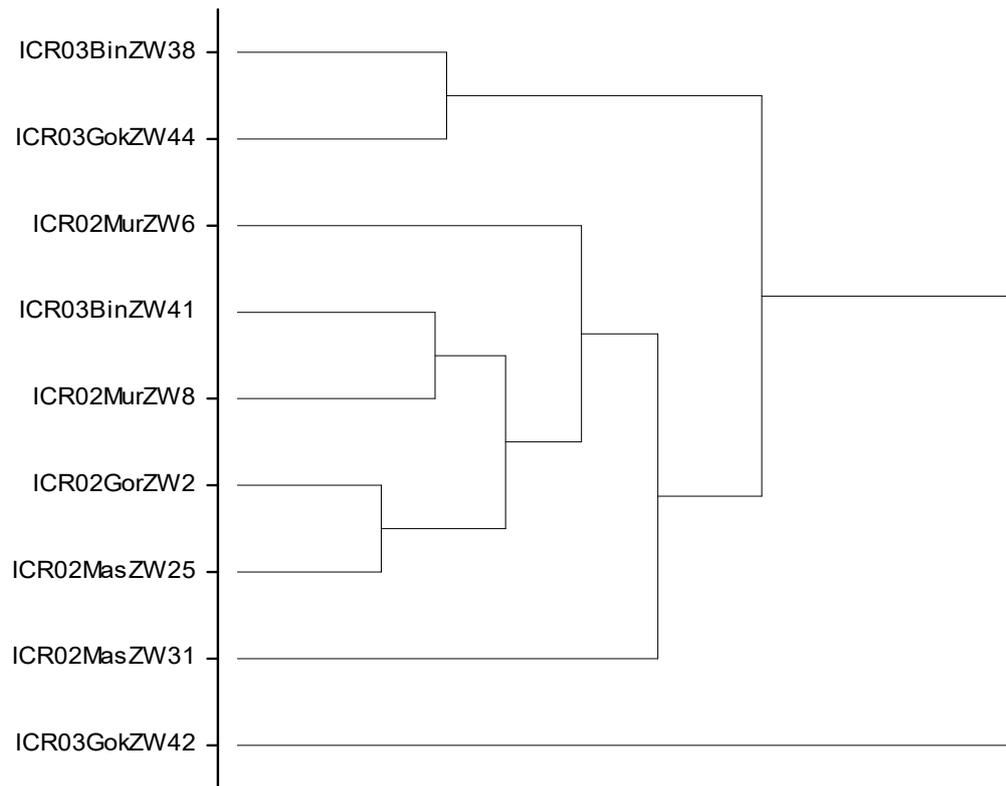
Akinnifesi, F., 2004. Indigenous Fruits and Livelihood Security in Southern Africa. In: Mbozi P, ed. 2004. *Living with trees in Southern Africa*. ICRAF – Southern Programme, Harare, Zimbabwe pp.5-10.

Campbell, B.M., 1987. The use of wild fruits in Zimbabwe. *Economic Botany* 41 pp.375-385.

Campbell, B.M., Clarke, J.M., and Gumbo., D.J., 1991. Traditional Agroforestry Practices in *Zimbabwe Agroforestry Systems* 14 pp.99-111.

**Table 5. Characteristics of the trees selected for multiple criteria [Times New Roman, Size 12, Bold, 1.5 spacing]**

<b>District</b>	<b>Tree ID</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>Fresh weight (g)</b>	<b>Pulp content (%)</b>	<b>TSS (% brix)</b>
Bindura	ICR03BinZW38	Nyava	25.0	41.8	22.8
Bindura	ICR03BinZW41	Nyava	29.8	52.9	22.5
Goromonzi	ICR02GorZW2	Ngazimbi	28.6	53.6	21.6
Gokwe	ICR03GokZW42	Mafa	24.9	59.9	20.0
Gokwe	ICR03GokZW44	Mafa	21.3	45.9	21.9
Masvingo	ICR02MasZW25	Chikume	26.0	56.3	22.5
Masvingo	ICR020MasZW31	Uranda	20.9	54.4	24.9
Murehwa	ICR02MurZW6	Chadenga	23.5	55.0	22.8
Murehwa	ICR02MurZW8	Chimani	33.0	52.9	24.0
<b>Mean</b>			<b>25.89</b>	<b>52.52</b>	<b>22.56</b>
<b>Variance</b>			<b>15.83</b>	<b>29.83</b>	<b>1.95</b>
<b>cv%</b>			<b>15.369</b>	<b>10.399</b>	<b>6.188</b>



**Figure 3: Dendrogram of the cluster analysis of superior phenotypes. [Times New Roman, Size 12, 1.5 spacing]**

## **HIT JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**An International Peer Reviewed Journal for Biotechnology**

### **Copyright**

Authors will be asked, upon acceptance of an article, to transfer copyright of the article to the Publisher in order to ensure the widest possible dissemination of information under copyright laws.

### **Review Process**

The objective of the review process is to provide detailed, constructive feedback on submitted papers so as to publish high quality papers within a very short period of time. The target for a first reply is not more than four weeks. Authors may be requested to submit revisions by the Editor in Chief.

### **Proofs**

Prior to publication, a proof will be sent to the corresponding author. The authors are advised to read the proof and correct any typographical or grammatical errors, and thereafter, return proofs to the editorial office.

### **Publication**

Articles are published in the journal through the inclusion of manuscripts to the journal, after proofs are received by the editorial office.

### **Publication Notification**

When an article is published, and made available on the journal's website, a publication notification will be sent to the corresponding author via email.

### **Additional Information**

Journal Editors reserve the right to accept, reject and/or edit any article (finished or unfinished) where necessary, however the author remains solely responsible for the content of the whole article.

### **Copyright Form**

Please visit the HIT website at [www.hit.ac.zw](http://www.hit.ac.zw) to view the copyright form.

# **HIT JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

## **An International Peer Reviewed Journal for Biotechnology**

### **Publication Ethics**

#### **1. Duties of Editors**

Editors must ensure that a fair peer-review of the manuscripts which have been submitted has been carried out. Further they must ensure that no potential conflict of interest arises between editors, authors and review personnel. The work of the editors will be co-ordinated by the Editor-in-Chief.

#### **2. Duties of Reviewers**

Reviewers are required to review manuscripts without fear, favour or prejudice and without regard to religion, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, or citizenship. They are to refrain from discrimination on the grounds of, but not limited to, the above mentioned categories. Further, they must ensure that the information submitted in the manuscripts is kept confidential. Where a copyright infringement has occurred and has been picked up by the reviewers, it is their obligation to bring this to the Editor-in-Chief's attention.

#### **3. Duties of Authors**

##### **a. Reporting Standards**

Authors should provide accurate reports of the work carried out as well as the objective and significance of any original research. Any other additional data should be included in the manuscript. The detail should be clear and sufficient to enable other individuals to replicate the research described. Fraudulent or misrepresented data is unethical and will not be accepted.

##### **b. Data Access and Retention**

Where key data has been used for the purposes of the research, authors are required to provide raw data for editorial review. Authors must be prepared to make this data readily available to the public

##### **c. Originality and Plagiarism**

Any work that is written by authors must be original. Where the work of other individuals is used, such work must be quoted or cited appropriately.

##### **d. Multiple, Redundant, or Concurrent**

The journal discourages the publishing of manuscripts based on the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. The submitting of the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently is regarded as unethical publishing behaviour and will not be accepted.

##### **e. Acknowledgement of Sources**

Any sources that are consulted for research must be cited. The acknowledgement of work that belongs to anyone other than the author of the submitted manuscript must always be given proper acknowledgement.

**f. Authorship of the Paper**

The acknowledged authors of a manuscript should be limited to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the reported research. Those who have participated on important aspects of the project but to a lesser degree may be listed or acknowledged as contributors.

**g. Hazards and Human and Animal Subjects**

Where the work/experiments/research carried out involves any chemicals, procedures or equipment that may be hazardous to humans or animals, this must be disclosed

**h. Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest**

Financial or any other conflicts of interest must be disclosed in order to avoid prejudice in the results or interpretation of any author's manuscript.

**i. Fundamental error in published work**

Where a significant error or inaccuracy is discovered by an author in his/her published work, the author is obliged to notify either the journal editor or publisher and co-operate in taking reasonable steps to either retract or amend the paper.

**HIT JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**An International Peer Reviewed Journal for Biotechnology**

**TRANSFER OF COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT**

**Manuscript No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:**

---

---

**Corresponding Author Name:**

---

**Address/Affiliation:**

---

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:**

---

**Name of Co-Author(s):**

---

---

---

---

---

---

On behalf of all authors, as the corresponding author of the manuscript, I warrant that:

1. I/We hereby assign the above titled manuscript completely and absolutely to HIT Journal of Biotechnology for publication with effect from the date of acceptance. This assignment of copyright shall include, but is not limited to, the exclusive right to do any and all acts in all countries in which the copyright in the manuscript subsists (or may subsist in the future) together with all rights of action in respect of any future or existing infringement of such copyright.

2. The manuscript above is my/our original work and is without fabrication, fraud, or plagiarism. It has neither been published previously elsewhere (in either printed or electronic form on the internet/discussion groups/electronic bulletin boards) nor has been submitted for consideration for publication elsewhere.

3. The manuscript contains no violation of any existing copyright or other third party right or any material of unlawful nature. I/we will indemnify the Editors of HIT Journal of Biotechnology against any and all claims and expenses (including legal costs and expenses) arising from breach of this warranty and the other warranties on my/our behalf in this agreement.

4. That I/we have obtained permission for and acknowledged the original authors of books, papers, articles, or journals used as the source of any illustrations, diagrams or other materials contained in the manuscript.

5. All authors warrant that they have met the requirements for authorship as set out in the Journal's Instructions for Authors; and further, understand that if the paper or part of the paper is found to be fraudulent, they are jointly and severally liable for any action arising thereof.

**Corresponding Author Name:**

---

**Signature & Date:**

---

**Note:** After this form is completed, please email the scanned copy of original signed form to the editorial office at the following e-mail address: [biotech@hit.ac.zw](mailto:biotech@hit.ac.zw) cc [pdhliway@yahoo.com](mailto:pdhliway@yahoo.com)

# HIT JOURNAL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

An International Peer Reviewed Journal for Biotechnology

## Reviewers' Guide

### Part A

#### General Details

1.	Name of Reviewer	
2.	E mail address	
3.	Manuscript number	
4.	Title of manuscript	
5.	Authors	
6.	Date sent to reviewer	
7.	Date expected from reviewer	
<i>This will be a blind review process where the names of the reviewers and authors shall not be disclosed to either party</i>		

### Part B

#### Comments on the Manuscript

1.	Abstract	
2.	Introduction / Background	
3.	Methodology	
4.	Results	
5.	Discussion	
6.	Recommendations	
7.	Conclusion	
8.	References	
9.	Tables, figures, graphs	
10.	Others	
11.	Decision / Overall Comment	

**Part C**

**Give your recommendations on the following issues**

1.	Is the title of the manuscript appropriate?	
2.	Is the experimental design appropriate and adequate?	
3.	Are the results and the data presented authentic and repeatable?	
4.	Do the results adequately support the conclusions of the study described?	
5.	Are the references appropriately cited?	
6.	Does the manuscript require further proofreading and correction of grammatical errors?	

**Part D**

**Give your ratings of the following**

1.	Originality	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
2.	Technical soundness				
3.	Relevance to field				
4.	Depth of research				
5.	Logical flow				
6.	Soundness of language				
7.	Clarity of presentation				

**Part E**

**Recommendations**

1.	Accept as is	
2.	Requires minor revision	
3.	Requires moderate revision	
4.	Requires major revision	
5.	Submit to another publication	
6.	Reject on these grounds (specify)	

**Part F**

Additional comments / suggestions

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....