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Editorial

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Dear readers and authors,

I am pleased to bring you volume 7, issue 1 of Pharmacognosy Communications. The metrics of Pharmacognosy Communications continue to improve. In my editorial in the previous issue, I summarised the achievements of the journal to that point. By the end of 2015, Pharmacognosy Communications had published 153 manuscripts with 591 total citations, at an average citation rate of 3.86 per published manuscript across that period. Since then, we have received further promising journal metrics. The website Researchgate recently reported the 2015 journal impact of Pharmacognosy Communications to be 2.19 (Figure 1a). Whilst this is not an official ISI impact factor, it is calculated in a similar manner (publication number during a time period/ total citations across that period). Indeed, it is likely that this figure may be underestimated as the Researchgate impact metric is calculated using Researchgate data (which uses citations reported on that site only). This is a very good result for Pharmacognosy Communications. Whilst it must be emphasised that this is not an official Thompson and Reuters impact factor, it does indicate that the journal is developing as a credible forum in the pharmacognosy, phytotherapy and traditional medicine fields. We are currently ranked by Research gate as having a similar impact as the Journal of Ethnopharmacology (2.69), Phytochemistry (2.27), Phytomedicine (2.08) and Phytotherapy Research (2.65) (Figure 1 a). These journals are highly respected and are considered as being leaders in their fields, indicting the impact that Pharmacognosy Communications has achieved. Notably, those journals have a much longer history than Pharmacognosy Communications, each being in print for at more than 20 years. Indeed, the Journal of Ethnopharmacology has been published since 1979. As journal impact is a measure of the total citations over a time period (rather than citations from publications from that time period only), citations for older publications will contribute to journal impact metrics. Thus, journals which are well established would be expected to have higher impacts due to the contribution of the older, as well as recent publications. Figure 1b shows the trend towards increasing impact for Pharmacognosy Communications over the 3 year period in which we have been ranked by Researchgate. It is reasonable to expect that the impact will continue to steadily improve in future years, as we grow and accumulate a larger publication backlog.

In this issue we present 7 new original research reports examining the pharmacognosy of several important medicinal plants including reports on the antiplasmoidal activity of *Zanthoxylum gilletii* bark extracts; the inhibition of the growth of a panel of pathogenic bacteria by *Eupomatia laurina* fruit extracts; the antimicrobial activity of pyrazole, isoazoxazoline

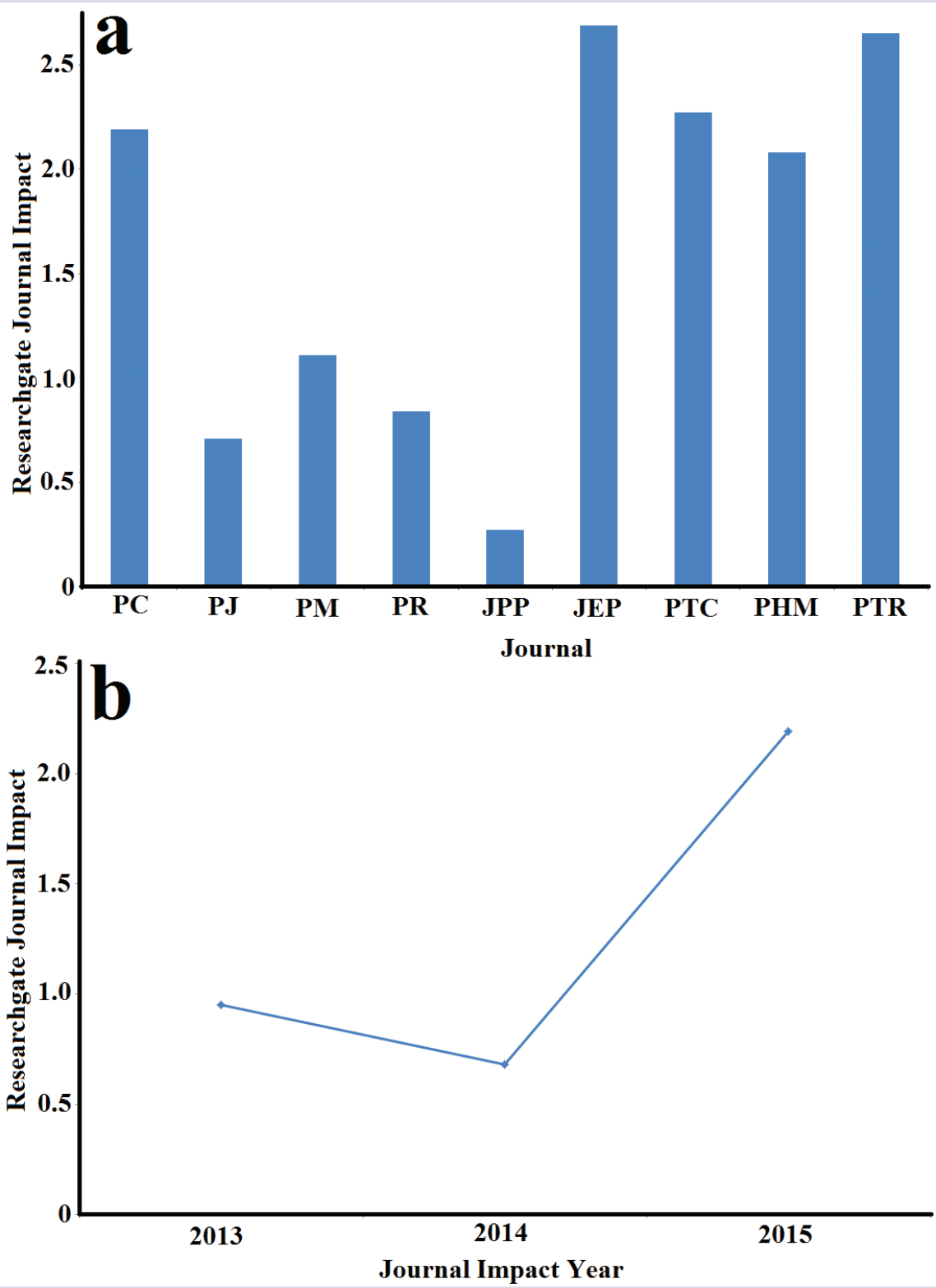

Figure 1: Recent Researchgate journal metrics showing (a) the 2015 Researchgate journal impact for Pharmacognosy Communications in comparison to several leading journals in the fields of pharmacognosy, phytotherapy and traditional medicine and; (b) the impact progression across the 3 year period for which Pharmacognosy Communications has been rated by Researchgate. PC = Pharmacognosy Communications; PJ = Pharmacognosy Journal; PM = Pharmacognosy Magazine; PR = Pharmacognosy Research; JPP = Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy; JEP = Journal of Ethnopharmacology; PTC = Phytochemistry; PHM = Phytomedicine; PTR = Phytotherapy Research.

and bypuyrimidine compounds from *Polygonum senegalense* and flavonoids from *Psiadia punctulata*; the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities of *Asparagus aphyllus, Crataegus azarolus* and *Ephedra alata* in cell cultures; the antifungal activity of *Thymus vulgaris* essential oil; inhibition of the growth inhibition of food spoilage and food poisoning bacteria by *Acacia* spp. extract and; the antimicrobial activity of semi-synthetic derivatives of *Polygonum senegalense* chalcones.

Our regular features are also continued in this issue. The Janus Corner presents short notifications of interest to readers of Pharmacognosy Communications. I encourage all readers to get involved with this section by sending in short notifications of work that may be of interest to your fellow readers, book reviews and letters to the editor. Two more high quality medicinal plant images are also included in this issue and a listing of upcoming conferences and meetings is also included. I encourage any conference organisers who would like to publicise their event to contact me with details so they can be included in future upcoming events sections of this journal. I look forward to bringing you the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications in 3 months time. Keep submitting your quality research manuscripts and reviews and also consider becoming involved/submitting to the other sections (Janus Corner, Medicinal Plant Images etc.) of the journal. On behalf of the editorial board, we look forward to bringing you the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications in 3 months' time.