

• Писма до редакцията •  
• Letters to the Editor •

## COMMENT ON “DETERMINATION OF THE OXYGEN CONTENT IN THE AIR”:

İ. CEYHUN, Z. KARAGÖLGE. *KHIMIYA*. VOL. 13(4), 283–288 (2004)

Sir,

Let us start with the very purpose for the publication of articles in your distinguished journal, as it is given on WWW:

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Chemistry provides a forum for sharing and discussing ideas and news about **new ways of teaching and presenting** experimental and theoretical aspects of chemistry.

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By submitting a manuscript, the editors will presume that the article **has not been published elsewhere**.  
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It is hard to believe that authors are not familiar with the above policies of the journal. It is even harder to believe that an author would, ever, dare to ‘borrow’ an article from the reach chemical literature (like the famous Journal of Chemical Education) and submit it as his own work! Unfortunately, this is exactly what happened with the article by [1] – the original, published by us, appeared four years ago [2]. Worse of all, Ceyhun & Karagölge (apart of few added paragraphs) literally retyped, word by word, “their” article from the original. That is, whole paragraphs, the two figures, even the Table (here the results in the first and third column are slightly modified, as though the initial volume of NO was 40 cm<sup>3</sup> instead of 30, but all other numbers are practically the same in both papers). Naturally, as is normal when a work is being retyped, some language awkwardness occurred that was not present in the original. Also, the states of the reactants and the product (cf. eq. 1 of ref. 1) are written as subscripts [1], which is wrong.

Just for clarity, the authors start “their” work with 2 paragraphs that are not part of the original paper. A minor point of difference is the method used to generate NO:

they start from HCl, NaNO<sub>2</sub> and CuCl (instead of HCl, NaNO<sub>2</sub> and FeCl<sub>2</sub> or FeSO<sub>4</sub>, given in the original [2]). Of course, given the data in Table I it is clear that they did not bother to perform the demonstration, so the above ‘minor point of difference’ is totally irrelevant. Funny, the authors cite our work [2] in such a way that a reader gets the impression that our paper is based on misconception! Or, perhaps, not funny? What is the purpose of retyping someone’s paper, while in the same time making it sound that ‘it is based on misconception’? Is it, perhaps, an alibi in case somebody complains about originality? Shall the answer be: ‘Oh, yes, it is not new, but we cited your article... look it is there!’. Even when speaking about dishonesty, enough is enough.

The question is now, why? Why do people do such things? How should they expect that nobody would find out the true source of “their” paper? Or, God only knows!

One thing must be clear: we do not blame either the Editor-in-Chief, or the reviewers. It is not possible to read all papers that appeared in the numerous educational chemistry literature all over the world. Both the editors and the referees of all journals expect authors to be decent and honest people. They do not expect them to cheat or steal other peoples’ results. And indeed, people usually don’t do that. However, things like the above happen occasionally. If it is a local publication (intended for a limited number of students), it could perhaps be acceptable (in that case, the text should be organized as an exercise in a laboratory manual, with no references). Certainly this would never happen in a distinguished educational journal, like *ХИМИЯ/Chemistry*, intended to publish original papers (see above). And the authors MUST know this.

We don’t know about Mr. Ceyhun and Mr. Karagölge, but we think we should never survive such a shame, unless there is a sound explanation for what has been done (frankly, in the above case we cannot think of any).

## REFERENCES

1. **İ. Ceyhun, Z. Karagölge, Z.** *Chemistry* 13, 283–288 (2004).
2. **M. Najdoski, V. M. Petruševski,** *J. Chem. Educ.* **77**, 1447–1448 (2000).

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## Editors’ Note

An explanation of that bad situation by the authors in question is expected. Opinions on that and other similar cases would be of use of our readers and authors.