

January 12, 2008

## Journal of Plant Research (JPR) Ethics Investigation Committee Bylaws

### Article 1: Purpose

The JPR Ethics Investigation Committee Bylaws (hereinafter the “Bylaws”) establish guidelines and procedures for conducting necessary investigations and deliberations about scientific misconduct and allegations thereof concerning papers submitted to and published in the *Journal of Plant Research* (hereinafter “JPR”).

### Article 2: Definitions

Scientific misconduct covered by the Bylaws shall include the following.

- i. When reasonable grounds for suspicion of falsification or fabrication of experimental results in the contents of manuscripts submitted to or published in JPR have been found (falsification or fabrication)
- ii. When an author has submitted to or published in any journal the author's own research paper that is being submitted to or has been published in JPR, in part or whole, without clearly indicating that it is being submitted to or has already been published in any other journal(s) (class one duplicate or multiple submission)
- iii. When an author has submitted to or published in JPR the author's own research paper that is being submitted to or has been published in a journal other than JPR, in part or whole, without clearly indicating that it is being submitted to or has already been published in any other journal(s) (class two duplicate or multiple submission)
- iv. When an author has submitted to or published in any journal the research results of another person that have been published in JPR, in part or whole, without proper reference citations as if they were the author's own original research results (class one plagiarism)
- v. When an author has submitted to or published in JPR the research results of another person that have been published in a journal other than JPR, in part or whole, without proper reference citations as if they were the author's own

original research results (class two plagiarism)

- vi. Scientific misconduct involving JPR other than the above categories that the JPR Editorial Committee considers significant (other important scientific misconduct)

#### Article 3: Establishment of Investigation Committee

When the Editor-in-Chief of JPR has received communications concerning the occurrence of scientific misconduct set forth in Article 2 or suspicion thereof, or if the Editor-in-Chief him/herself becomes aware of the occurrence thereof, the Editor-in-Chief shall promptly consult with the JPR Editorial Committee to determine whether to establish an Investigation Committee and shall establish a JPR Ethics Investigation Committee (hereinafter the “Investigation Committee”) in cases where majority agreement has been reached.

2. An Investigation Committee shall comprise all members of the JPR Editorial Committee.
3. When an Investigation Committee has judged it necessary, it may include among its members the Secretary-General of the Botanical Society of Japan (hereinafter the “Society”) or concerned parties or intellectuals other than members of the Society.
4. The Editor-in-Chief of JPR, who shall be the Investigation Committee chairperson, shall be in charge of the Investigation Committee.

#### Article 4: Investigation and Deliberation

The Investigation Committee shall investigate and deliberate scientific misconduct and suspicion thereof promptly and, as necessary, shall interview the author(s) and concerned parties.

2. When, as a result of the Investigation Committee’s deliberation, the conclusion that the matter constitutes scientific misconduct has been reached, the Investigation Committee shall, in accordance with the degree of said misconduct, select all measures that the Investigation Committee considers appropriate from the measures set forth below and submit to the President of the Society a report on the measures and its deliberation process.
  - i. Discontinuation of reviewing of research papers judged to contain scientific

- misconduct and notice of rejection to the author
- ii. Notification of the circumstances of the misconduct to the head of the institution with which the author is affiliated (including an academic advisor when an author is a student)
  - iii. Notification to the author of the intention not to accept in future any research paper submission from the author concerned
  - iv. When a journal other than JPR is involved, notification of the circumstances of the misconduct to the editor of that journal
  - v. When misconduct has been discovered in any research paper already published in JPR, retraction of the research paper and posting of a notice thereof on the online site for JPR

#### Article 5: Approval by the President of the Society

When the President of the Society has decided that the deliberation results and measures reported by the Investigation Committee are unwarranted, the President of the Society shall indicate the reasons for the decision to the Investigation Committee and instruct the Investigation Committee to conduct a reinvestigation.

2. When the President of the Society has decided that the conclusions of the Investigation Committee are warranted, the President of the Society shall approve the enforcement of the measures and simultaneously report to the Board of Directors the Investigation Committee's deliberation results and the measures. At the time of the report to the Board of Directors, the President of the Society shall give consideration to protection of the basic human rights of the concerned parties.

#### Article 6: Raising of Objections

When the President of the Society has approved enforcement of the measures, the Investigation Committee shall inform the author of the Investigation Committee's deliberation results and the measures without delay. At the time of notification of deliberation results and measures to the author, the Society shall establish a period of one month following notification for the filing of objections.

2. When the author has filed an objection, three directors, who shall have been

elected from councilors of the Society and shall be appointed by the President of the Society, shall deliberate the petition of objection. When they have decided a reinvestigation is necessary, the President of the Society shall instruct the Investigation Committee to conduct a reinvestigation.

#### Article 7: Enforcement of Measures

When the author has not filed an objection within one month of receipt of the decision, the measures shall be deemed decided and the Society shall enforce the measures.

2. At the time the measures are enforced, the Investigation Committee chairperson shall dissolve the Investigation Committee.

#### Article 8: Amendment

An amendment to these Bylaws shall require the approval of the executive board members of the Society.

These Bylaws go into effect January 12, 2008.