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# Cases of "Review for Pal" on Geological Journal

Previously, we and our allies exposed some researchers in Geography gained massive publications through their editor friends, or even through their self-editing [1-2], raising concerns about the conflict of interest in those articles. Up to recently, over 1,000 articles were found with such conflict of interest [3], and much more are undetected due to that the information about the handling editors was not disclosed with the published articles.

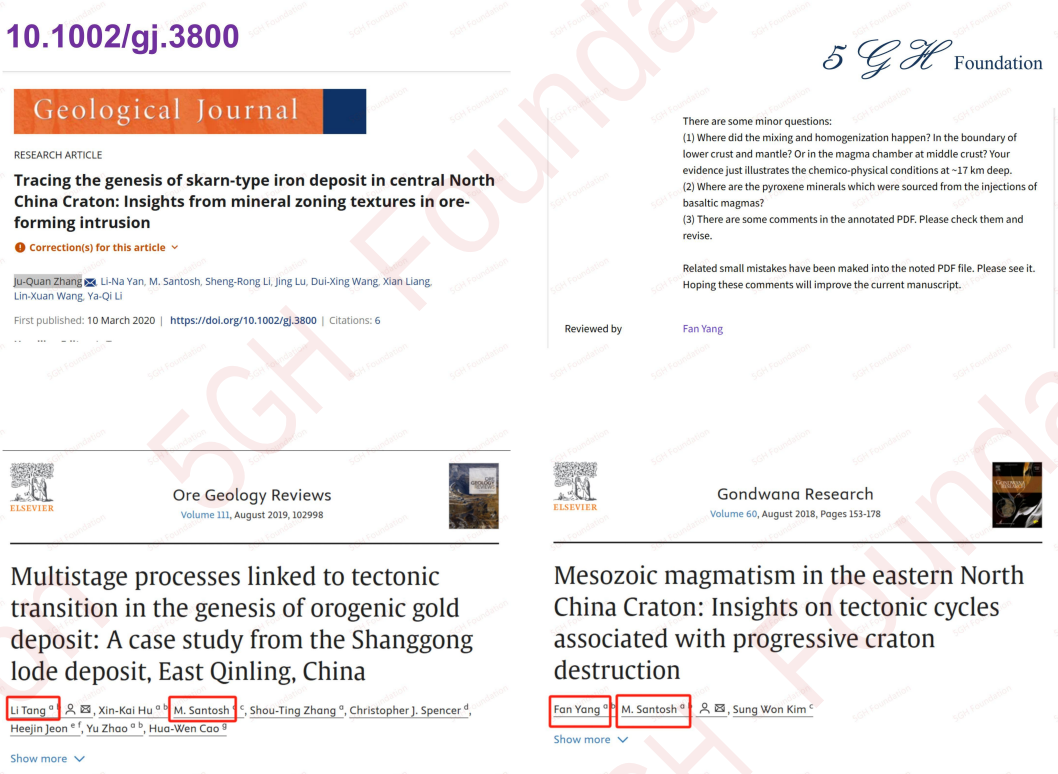
However, finding a friend to handle their manuscripts was the first step to allow their articles published much easier, with less rigorous peer review. Our recent investigation suggests that some of those articles were reviewed by authors' friends (Review for Pal), too.

## 10.1002/gj.3871

This article was published by M Ramkumar et. al. in 2020, and was handled by I Somerville, who had coauthorship with another author of this article, M Santosh, earlier than the publication of this article. The two reviewers also had connections to the authors. Before the publication of this article, P D Roy coauthored with M Ramkumar, while E H Ariffin coauthored with N A Siddiqui. During our investigation, an independent sleuth posted the linkage between E H Ariffin and N A Siddiqui on PubPeer [4], confirming the our outcome.

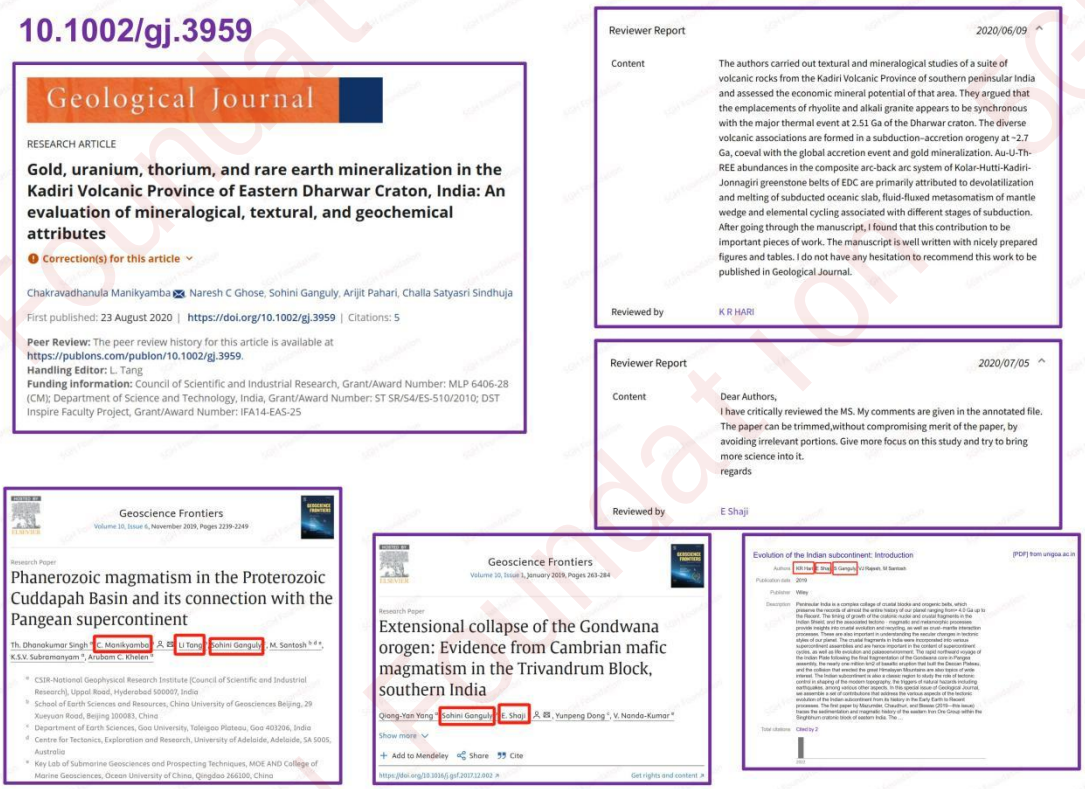
## 10.1002/gj.3800

This article was published by J Q Zhang et. al. in 2020, and was handled by L Tang. We notice both L Tang and M Santosh, one of the authors of this article, worked for a same institution, China University of Geosciences Beijing, and they had multiple coauthorship before the publication of this article, dated back to 2019. L Tang chose F Yang as a reviewer to this article. F Yang also had long history of coauthorship with M Santosh, which can date back to 2018. The name of the other reviewer was not disclosed.



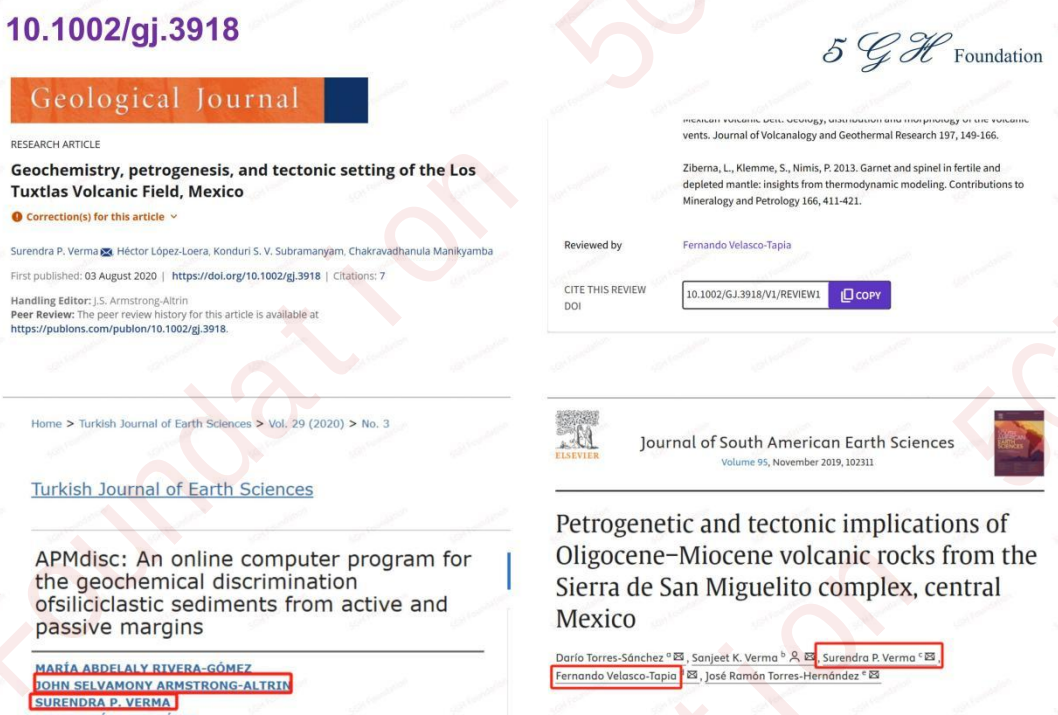

## 10.1002/gj.3959

This article was published by C Manikyamba et. al. in 2020, and it was handled by L Tang with China University of Geosciences Beijing. For one hand, the handling editor L Tang had publication records with two of the authors, C Manikyamba and S Ganguly, earlier than the publication of this article. For the other hand, the two reviewers L Tang chose, E Shaji and K R Hari, also had publications with S Ganguly, one of the authors of this article, before or during the period of the publication of this article.



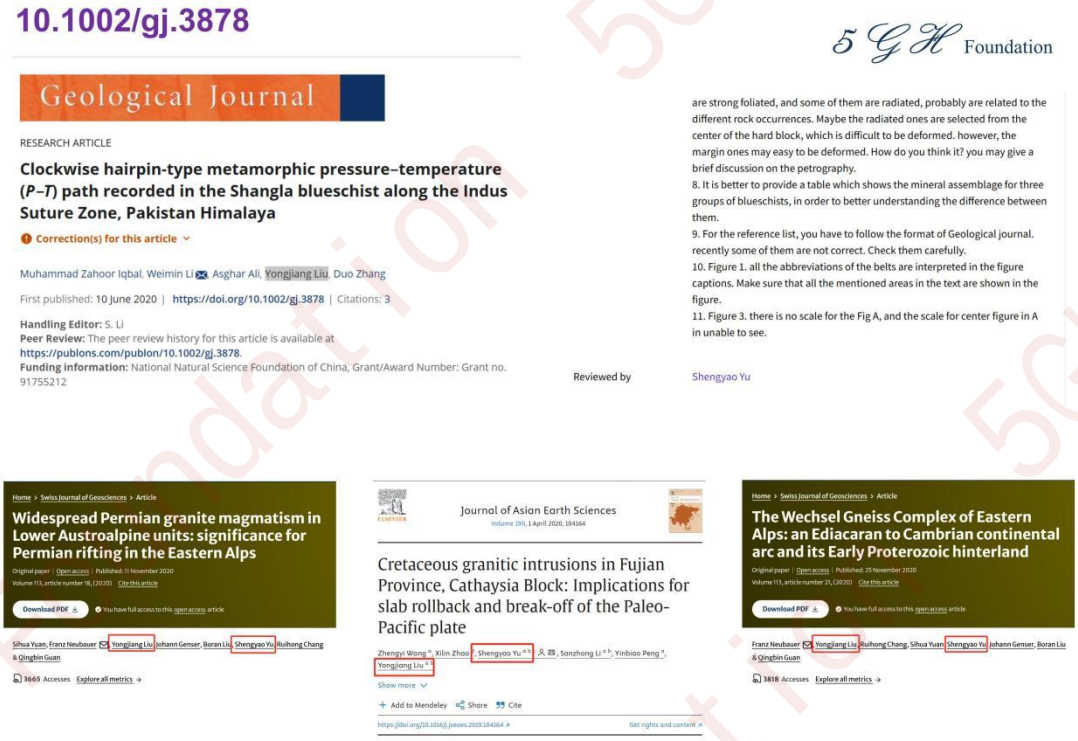

## 10.1002/gj.3918

This article was published by S P Verma et. al. in 2020, and was handled by J S Armstrong-Altrin. Armstrong-Altrin and Verma had a very long history of coauthorship before the publication of this article, and Armstrong-Altrin chose F Velasco-Tapia, another friend of Verma, to review this article. The name of the other reviewer was not disclosed.




## 10.1002/gj.3878

This article was published by M Z Iqbal et. al. in 2020, and was handled by S Li. One of the reviewers, S Y Yu, had strong linkage to one of the authors, Y J Liu. Both Yu and Liu worked for a same institution, Ocean University of China, and they had long history of coauthorship before and during the period of the publication of this article. The name of the other reviewer was not disclosed.



10.1002/gj.3878

Geological Journal

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Clockwise hairpin-type metamorphic pressure–temperature (*P–T*) path recorded in the Shangla blueschist along the Indus Suture Zone, Pakistan Himalaya

Correction(s) for this article

Muhammad Zahoor Iqbal, Weimin Li, Asghar Ali, Yongjiang Liu, Duo Zhang

First published: 10 June 2020 | https://doi.org/10.1002/gj.3878 | Citations: 3

Handling Editor: S. Li

Peer Review: The peer review history for this article is available at https://publons.com/publon/10.1002/gj.3878.

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are strong foliated, and some of them are radiated, probably are related to the different rock occurrences. Maybe the radiated ones are selected from the center of the hard block, which is difficult to be deformed. however, the margin ones may easy to be deformed. How do you think it? you may give a brief discussion on the petrography.

8. It is better to provide a table which shows the mineral assemblage for three groups of blueschists, in order to better understanding the difference between them.

9. For the reference list, you have to follow the format of Geological journal. recently some of them are not correct. Check them carefully.

10. Figure 1. all the abbreviations of the belts are interpreted in the figure captions. Make sure that all the mentioned areas in the text are shown in the figure.

11. Figure 3. there is no scale for the Fig A, and the scale for center figure in A in unable to see.

Reviewed by Shengyao Yu

Home › Swiss Journal of Geosciences › Article

Widespread Permian granite magmatism in Lower Austroalpine units: significance for Permian rifting in the Eastern Alps

Original paper | Open access | Published: 11 November 2020

Volume 113, article number 18, (2020) Cite this article

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Sihua Yuan, Franz Neubauer, Yongjiang Liu, Johann Genser, Boran Liu, Shengyao Yu, Ruihong Chang & Qingbin Guan

3665 Accesses Explore all metrics

Journal of Asian Earth Sciences

Volume 190, 1 April 2020, 104164

Cretaceous granitic intrusions in Fujian Province, Cathaysia Block: Implications for slab rollback and break-off of the Paleo-Pacific plate

Zhengyi Wong, Xilin Zhao, Shengyao Yu, Sanzhong Li, Yinbiao Peng, Yongjiong Liu

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Home › Swiss Journal of Geosciences › Article

The Wechsel Gneiss Complex of Eastern Alps: an Ediacaran to Cambrian continental arc and its Early Proterozoic hinterland

Original paper | Open access | Published: 25 November 2020

Volume 113, article number 21, (2020) Cite this article

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Franz Neubauer, Yongjiang Liu, Ruihong Chang, Sihua Yuan, Shengyao Yu, Johann Genser, Boran Liu & Qingbin Guan

3818 Accesses Explore all metrics

**10.1002/gj.3864**

This article was published by J Madhavaraju et. al. in 2020, and was handled by R Nagarajan. One of the reviewers, Paul-Desire Ndjigui, had coauthorship with one of the authors, J S Armstrong-Altrin. They co-authored in an article published in the same time of the publication of this article. Regarding to the other two reviewers, one of them was anonymous, and the other has no linkage to the authors of this article.


10.1002/gj.3864

Geological Journal

SPECIAL ISSUE ARTICLE

**Geochemistry of sands from the Huatabampo and Altata beaches, Gulf of California, Mexico**

Correction(s) for this article

Jayagopal Madhavaraju, John S. Armstrong-Altrin, Rahul B. Pillai, Teresa Pi-Puig

First published: 04 June 2020 | https://doi.org/10.1002/gj.3864 | Citations: 36

**Handling Editor:** R. Nagarajan
**Peer Review:** The peer review history for this article is available at https://publons.com/publon/10.1002/gj.3864.
**Funding information:** DGAPA, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico, Grant/Award Number: PAPIIT-IN111018


Reviewer Report 2020/01/30

Content Please, see the manuscript.

Reviewed by Paul-Desire Ndjigui


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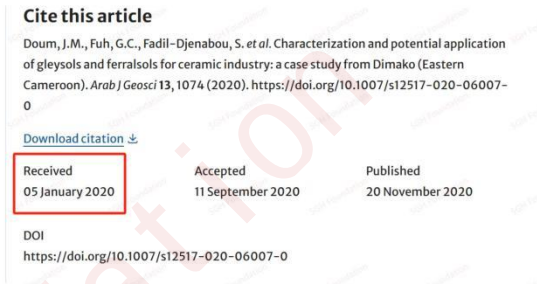
Home > Arabian Journal of Geosciences > Article

**Characterization and potential application of gleysols and ferralsols for ceramic industry: a case study from Dimako (Eastern Cameroon)**

Original Paper | Published: 20 November 2020
Volume 13, article number 1074, (2020) Cite this article

Josti M. Doum, Gentry C. Fuh, Soureiyatou Fadil-Djenabou, Vincent Laurent Onana, Paul-Désiré Ndjigui, John S. Armstrong-Altrin


**Cite this article**

Doum, J.M., Fuh, G.C., Fadil-Djenabou, S. *et al.* Characterization and potential application of gleysols and ferralsols for ceramic industry: a case study from Dimako (Eastern Cameroon). *Arab J Geosci* **13**, 1074 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1007/s12517-020-06007-0

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| Received | Accepted | Published |
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| 05 January 2020 | 11 September 2020 | 20 November 2020 |

DOI
https://doi.org/10.1007/s12517-020-06007-0

These six articles were listed on an Correction published by "Geological Journal", a Wiley title, early this month (May 8th, 2025). The Correction addresses the concerns in 98 articles coauthored by at least one of the associate editors of the journal, which may cause conflict of interest in the publications. Although the Correction states that "the [editorial and peer review] process was found to be sound, and the publisher considers the results presented in all affected articles to be reliable", but it was not. Our investigation reveals that some of the peer review process for those articles were affected with "Review for Pal", namely, the articles were reviewed by the friends of the authors. The peer review process should had been supervised by the handling editors and/or the editor in chief of the journal, however, this process was affected partly because of "Edit for Pal", namely, the articles were handled by the friends of the authors. The potential conflict of interest in those articles is not only the issues that associate editors coauthored in them, but also "Edit for Pal" and "Review for Pal", which were not addressed on the Correction by the journal.

It is very hard to estimate how many articles were affected with "Review for Pal". Only 13 of those 98 articles have open peer review records, but 46% (6 of 13) of them were found to be reviewed by the friends of the authors. Considering the small size of the sample, it is impossible to reach a conclusion here, but this matter should be seriously investigated by the journal or the publisher.

[1] 5GH-WuGH-20240603.001 (http://www.5gh.org.cn/WuGH/2024/20240603.001.html) (in Chinese)
[2] 5GH-WuGH-20240611.001 (http://www.5gh.org.cn/WuGH/2024/20240611.001.html)
[3] Editor-Author Conflict of Interest Examples Posted on PubPeer (pubpeer.com/search?q=editor+%2Bauthor+%2Blinked)
[4] PubPeer Comment on 10.1002/gj.3871 (https://pubpeer.com/publications/0A969F4CF1BA3A17D9D716D29677BA)
[5] 10.1002/gj.5230

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