

Advancing Open Science and Regional Research Visibility: The Vision of the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences

Qais Y. M. Abdullah 

Editor-in-Chief, Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences

Biological Science Department, Faculty of Science, Sana'a University, Sana'a, Yemen.

Corresponding author: editor@yjb-ye.org

Scientific publishing serves as a cornerstone of knowledge generation, dissemination, and scientific progress. Through peer-reviewed journals, researchers share discoveries, evaluate evidence, and contribute to the collective advancement of science. In recent decades, the landscape of scholarly communication has undergone significant transformation, particularly with the rise of open access publishing, which seeks to make scientific knowledge freely available to researchers, policymakers, educators, and the broader public worldwide (Björk, 2017; Suber, 2012). By removing access barriers, open access models promote wider dissemination of research findings, enhance scholarly visibility, and foster greater collaboration within the global scientific community.

A growing body of evidence suggests that open access publishing can significantly increase the accessibility and citation impact of scientific work, particularly for studies conducted in regions where access to subscription-based journals is limited (Gargouri et al., 2010). At the same time, the rapid expansion of scholarly publishing has intensified the need for robust editorial standards, rigorous peer review, and strong

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Editorial
Scientific publishing
Open access
Life sciences
Yemen

Article History

Received: Mar 11, 2026

Accepted: Mar 13, 2026

Published: Mar 14, 2026

How to cite this article:

Abdullah, Q. Y. M. (2026). Advancing open science and regional research visibility: The vision of the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences. Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences, 1(1), 12–15.



publication ethics to maintain the credibility and integrity of scientific literature (Ware, 2008). Ensuring transparency, methodological rigor, and responsible scientific communication is therefore essential to sustaining trust in the scientific enterprise.

The launch of the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences represents an important step toward strengthening the visibility and accessibility of life science research emerging from Yemen and the broader region. Researchers across the Middle East and other developing regions are actively contributing to critical areas of scientific inquiry, including microbiology, biotechnology, environmental sciences, biodiversity, and public health. Yet many valuable studies conducted in these contexts remain underrepresented in international scientific literature due to limitations in publication opportunities, restricted access to scholarly platforms, and structural challenges within the regional research ecosystem (Salager-Meyer, 2008).

The Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences has been established to address this gap by providing a credible, accessible, and internationally oriented platform for the publication of high-quality research in the life sciences. The journal seeks to promote the dissemination of scientifically rigorous studies that address biological, environmental, agricultural, and health-related challenges relevant to Yemen, the Middle East, and other regions facing similar developmental and ecological conditions. By amplifying locally generated knowledge and connecting it to global scientific dialogue, the journal aims to contribute meaningfully to both regional development and international scholarship.

A distinctive feature of the journal is its commitment to interdisciplinary research across the life sciences. Contemporary biological challenges are complex and interconnected, requiring collaboration among multiple scientific disciplines. The journal therefore welcomes contributions spanning diverse areas including microbiology, molecular biology, biotechnology, ecology, environmental health, biomedical sciences, and related fields. Interdisciplinary research is particularly important in addressing pressing global issues such as emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, environmental degradation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of biological resources.

Equally central to the mission of the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences is its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of scientific integrity and editorial transparency. All submitted manuscripts undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process, ensuring objective and unbiased evaluation of scientific quality. Peer review remains a cornerstone of scholarly publishing, serving as a mechanism for quality assurance, methodological refinement, and constructive scientific dialogue (Ware & Mabe, 2015). The journal adheres to internationally recognized principles of responsible publishing, including transparency in authorship, disclosure of conflicts of interest, and strict policies against plagiarism, data manipulation, and other forms of research misconduct.

In alignment with the global movement toward open science, the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences adopts an open access publishing model that enables unrestricted access to published research. Open access facilitates the rapid dissemination of knowledge, enhances scientific

collaboration, and promotes equitable participation in global research networks (Laakso & Björk, 2012). International initiatives and policy frameworks have increasingly emphasized the importance of open science in strengthening transparency, accessibility, and reproducibility in research (UNESCO, 2021). By embracing these principles, the journal seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and globally connected scientific environment.

Open access publishing is particularly important for researchers and institutions in developing countries. Limited access to subscription-based scientific literature has historically constrained the ability of scientists in resource-limited settings to fully participate in global scientific discourse. By ensuring that published research is freely accessible, open access journals play an important role in democratizing knowledge and expanding opportunities for scientific collaboration (Snijder, 2013). Recent international initiatives such as Plan S have further accelerated the global transition toward immediate and unrestricted access to publicly funded research outputs (cOAlition S, 2021).

Another priority of the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences is the support and development of early-career researchers. Emerging scientists often face barriers in accessing reputable publication platforms and gaining recognition for their work. By providing a transparent, ethical, and scientifically rigorous publishing environment, the journal aims to encourage innovative research contributions while fostering responsible research practices among the next generation of scientists.

The journal particularly welcomes research that addresses local and regional scientific challenges while contributing insights of broader global relevance. Studies focusing on regional biodiversity, infectious diseases, environmental changes, food and water safety, and sustainable biological solutions can provide valuable knowledge that informs both local decision-making and international scientific understanding.

Yemen is characterized by remarkable biological and ecological diversity, encompassing a wide range of ecosystems that support rich plant, animal, and microbial resources. Despite this significant biodiversity, biological research in Yemen remains relatively limited compared to the country's natural potential. Expanding scientific investigations in the life sciences is therefore essential for documenting, understanding, and sustainably utilizing Yemen's biological wealth. Without systematic research efforts, many of these valuable biological resources may remain poorly understood and underutilized. The Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences therefore encourages studies that explore biodiversity, environmental biology, microbiology, and other areas that contribute to revealing and responsibly managing Yemen's biological heritage.

As the inaugural issue of the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences is launched, we extend an invitation to researchers, scholars, and institutions worldwide to participate in this scientific endeavor. Through collaboration, scientific rigor, and dedication to ethical publishing practices, we aspire to build a journal that reflects the scientific potential of Yemen and the region while contributing meaningfully to the global advancement of life sciences.

The success of this initiative depends on the collective contributions of authors, reviewers, editors, and readers who share a commitment to advancing scientific knowledge. By fostering open dialogue, interdisciplinary collaboration, and responsible scientific communication, the Yemeni Journal of Life Sciences seeks to serve as a platform for discovery, innovation, and the continued growth of life science research in Yemen and beyond.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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