Dear Editors,

Please consider the manuscript “Standardising Peer Review in Paleontology journals” for publication.

The purpose of this manuscript is to provide an operational checklist for paleontology journals, of which there are currently more than 200. It is intended to serve one primary purpose: For an article to 'pass' peer review, articles must satisfy a specific quality threshold based on standardised guidelines. Thus, the quality of the peer review process is simultaneously ensured through an open and technical standardisation process. This comes at an important time in scholarly publishing when there are changing expectancies about the rigour and transparency involved in the publishing and review processes.

This should be of interest to all stakeholders engaged in the publishing process, including authors, editors, reviewers, and the publishers themselves, who all have a duty to uphold the integrity of the published research record. While this process might initially increase the bureaucracy involved in publishing, ultimately it should save time and effort as it becomes more widely established as an embedded scholarly norm, with integrity a formative part of peer review culture. Such standardisation might also help to catalyse similar initiatives across other research disciplines, with the geosciences taking a strong lead in this regard.

Kind regards,

Jon Tennant