

Letter to the editors

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Dear Editors of “Mycorrhiza”

The University of Oslo (UiO) and Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) jointly appointed an independent expert committee in November 2006 to investigate a series of publications and manuscripts authored or co-authored by a former employee at the two universities, Professor Shivcharn S. Dhillion. The committee delivered its report to UiO and UMB in December 2007. The article “Mycorrhizal plants of traditionally managed boreal grasslands in Norway,” hereafter referred to as the Article, was one of the articles evaluated by the committee.

The data and results presented in the Article are based on fieldwork done in 1999 in three different localities in Norway. Prof. Dhillion was responsible for the data from Tyllidalen, a location referred to in the Article, and provided the data from Tyllidalen to the first author Marit Eriksen.

This refers to the article that can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00572-008-0227-9>

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The committee’s conclusion reads (our translation from Norwegian to English, report page 47):

“Without a field-log or the original protocol regarding the content of mycorrhiza it is not possible to verify the results presented for the samples from Tyllidalen. Responsibility for ensuring that the raw-data and protocols for his contribution to the article are verifiable in retrospect lies with Prof. Dhillion.

The committee is of the opinion that Dhillion violated good scientific practice since he is unable to present his raw-data for an article published as recently as 2002.”

Based on the committee’s findings regarding this Article, the authenticity of the data from Tyllidalen presented in the Article cannot be verified. Thus, we ask the scientific community to disregard these results and findings and to refrain from citing or using them in any other way in scientific work.

Yours sincerely

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