Reaction of the Editorial Board of the Int J Bioautomation Concerning a Signal for a Violation of Copyright and Ethical Rules

On April 6, 2020, the Editorial board of Int J Bioautomation received a letter from Prof. Young Park (Young W. Park, Ph.D., D. Min, CFS Fellow, American Dairy Science Association, Professor of Food Science, Georgia Small Ruminant Research & Extension Center, Fort Valley State University, University System of Georgia, Fort Valley, GA 31030, USA; Adjunct Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Food Science & Technology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA). The letter contains information on a copyright violation, related to the use of illustrative material from the book of Prof. Young Park “Bioactive Components in Milk and Dairy Products” published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2009 without a reference in the paper “Bioactive Peptides: A Review” authored by Shrikant Sharma, Raghvendar Singh and Shashank Rana, published in Int J Bioautomation, 2011, 15(4), 223-250.

The Editorial board responded in a timely manner to this signal by acquainting the three authors of the review with the claim, asking them to comment. An answer was received only from Mr. Shrikant Sharma, in which he blames the omission on himself, even though he was a Ph.D. scholar at that time, while the other co-authors were established researchers and possibly his supervisors/consultants. In his letter, Mr. Shrikant Sharma apologized to Prof. Young Park.

A careful review of the published article showed that there are no other materials and illustrations used without appropriate reference to their source. However, the omission gives grounds for misinterpretation of the illustration used and the related comments, which might be considered as the contribution of the authors of this review. To avoid such inadmissible omissions in the future, the Editorial board of Int J Bioautomation decided to retract the article “Bioactive Peptides: A Review” authored by S. Sharma, R. Singh and S. Rana and published in Int J Bioautomation, 2011, 15(4), 223-250, from the online content of the relevant issue of the journal, of which this decision is noted in its place and of which the authors have been notified.

We consider it appropriate to note, that the Editorial board of Int J Bioautomation is not responsible for knowingly or unknowingly admitted irregularities in copyright materials, for which the responsibility lies entirely with the authors.

The Editorial board are grateful to Prof. Young Park for the signal sent, which gave rise to the decision in principle, in connection with an omission that violates copyright and ethical rules of the Int J Bioautomation.