

# Predators at the Gates

## Citations to Predatory Journals in Mainstream Scientific Literature

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# Objective

Determine whether and to what extent articles published in predatory journals are being cited in the legitimate scientific literature

# Method

- Identify predatory publications
- Search three major aggregations for citations to them
  - Web of Science
  - Elsevier journals (Science Direct)
  - PLOS One

# The journals

“Star Wars” Sting:

- *Journal A*
- *Journal B*
- *Journal C*
- *Journal D*

# The journals

“Chocolate Makes You Lose Weight” Sting:

- *Journal E*

# The journals

“Seinfeld” Sting:

- *Journal F*

# The journals

“Dr. Fraud” Sting:

- *Journal G*

# Investigation

- Searches were conducted in August and October 2018
- Complete data set will be made publicly available following this conference



# Results

- *Journal A*
- ~~*Journal B*~~
- *Journal C*
- ~~*Journal D*~~
- *Journal E*
- *Journal F*
- *Journal G*

# Results

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# Results – the good news

Journal Title	Elsevier	Web of Science	PLOS One
Journal A	2	33	0
Journal C	1	24	0
Journal E	3 (5)	40	0 (17)
Journal F	0	2	0
Journal G	0	1	0

# Results – the bad news

	Articles Published	# Cited in Web of Sci	% Cited
Journal A	90	33	37
Journal C	95	24	25
Journal E	656 (2015-2016)	40	6

# Conclusions

- Predatory journals pose a genuine threat to the integrity of scientific discourse
- Further research is needed to determine the size and impact of that threat

# Thank you

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