

## Editor's Note

### **Retracted article: Achievement of 1.4 ng detection limit of cesium with TXRF spectrometer by changing the X-ray detector and reducing noise**

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*J. Anal. At. Spectrom.*, 2012, DOI: 10.1039/C2JA10380J

This Editor's note is to provide additional information regarding the reason for the retraction of this article from *Journal of Analytical Atomic Spectrometry*. The article was originally accepted for publication on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012, and the accepted version of the article was then published online as an Accepted Manuscript on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 (not the final, edited version).

During the proof stage, we were informed by the authors that there were significant changes to be made to the article. At this stage, the Editor handling the papers didn't realise that the article had already been published online, and so suggested to the authors that the article be withdrawn for these changes to be made. The Editor noted at this time that it may then be necessary for further peer-review if there were significant changes to the article. The corresponding author, Professor Imashku, agreed that the paper should be withdrawn and they would resubmit a revised version at a later date. We'd like to thank the authors for alerting us at this stage about the concerns with the data, and we fully accept that it was our mistake that the article was allowed to be withdrawn at this stage, with the Accepted Manuscript remaining available.

After further peer-review of a subsequently submitted revised manuscript on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, there was still remaining doubt over the reliability of the data in the article, and so publication was not taken any further.

It came to our attention in May 2013 that the original article was still available online. We then contacted the authors, and suggested that the article be retracted due to the errors that had been mentioned in earlier correspondence, and the continuing concerns from the review process. The authors informed us that the errors in the manuscript were not significant, but changes had been necessary to several figures and tables in the manuscript. It was then agreed with the authors that the accepted version of the article should be retracted to maintain the scientific record.

The Royal Society of Chemistry is a member of COPE, we consult the Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines of the Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE) and act accordingly.

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14 November 2013