

PHILOSOPHY

GRAPHICAL ABSTRACTS: UGLY AND DANGEROUS

14.01.2020

I see all these graphical abstracts in Elsevier papers along with [instructions](#) like “please use Times, Arial, Courier or Symbol font”. The intention behind these drawings is probably a “cut & paste template” for busy congress speakers. Or some social media ads. But there are arguments against this practice.

The strong argument: It is the task of a speaker to carefully read an article, find out out strengths and weakness, and put the results into context. Just cut & paste a graphical abstract is unacceptable.

And there is another argument: As drawn by lay people, most of these graphical abstracts are ugly, hard to understand and biased. They often steal ideas and concepts, making art directors, illustrators and typesetter unemployed.

[For a more in depth](#) analysis see an essay by [Nico Pitrelli](#)...

added 11 Aug 2025

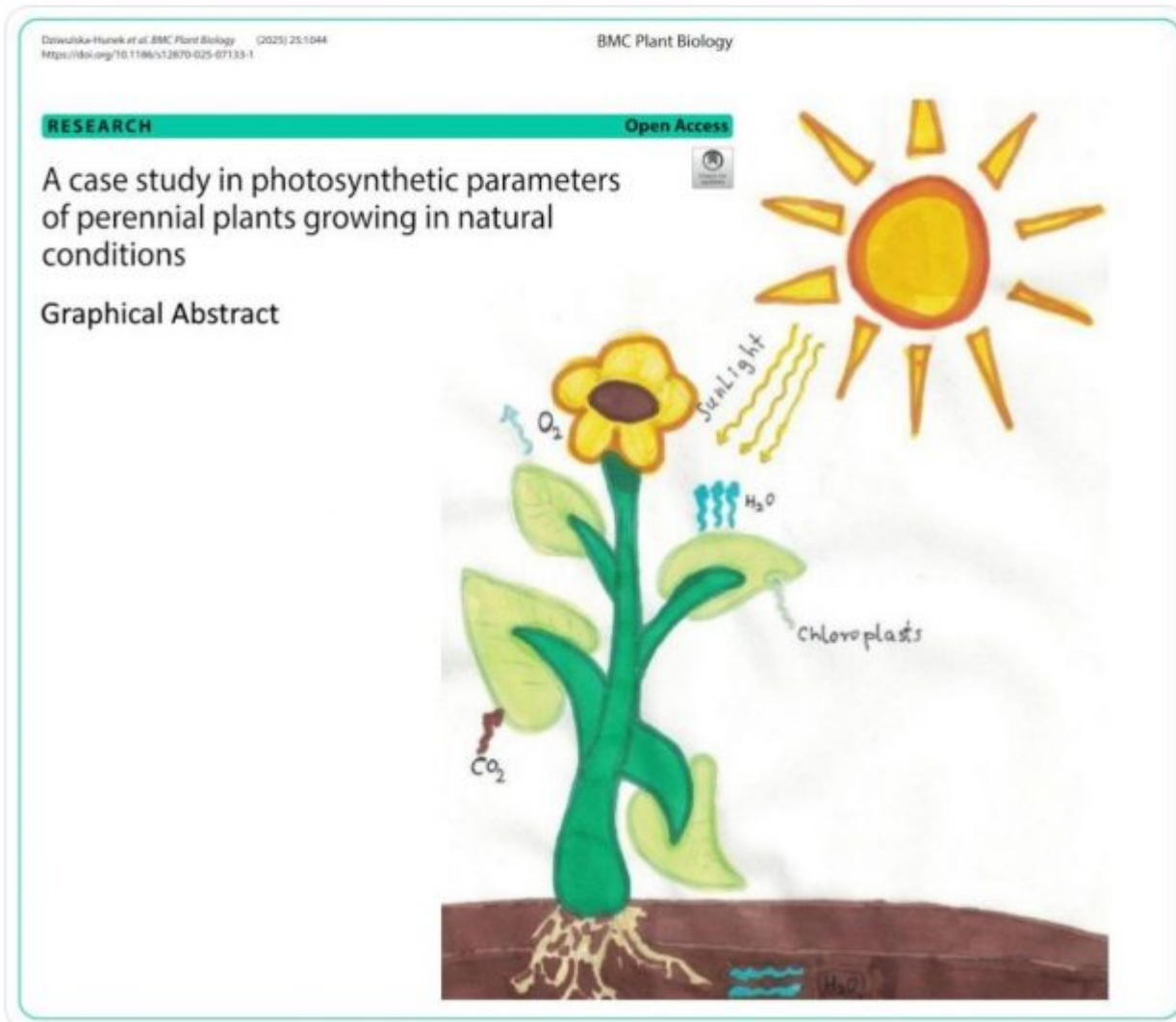
no words required



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Graphical Abstracts are my passion 08 Aug 2025 (\$3090.00 APC)



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