Dear Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board,

Please find enclosed the manuscript entitled **‘**L**ysosomal membrane stability and respiration rate in zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) as biomarkers for *ex situ* heavy metal exposure’ by Yancheva et al.** which we would like to submit for consideration of publication as a research article in **Periodicum biologorum**.

The paper demonstrates the investigation of heavy metals Ni and Pb (which are categorized as priority substances in surface waters according to Directive 2008/105/EO of the European parliament and the Council) effects on two biomarkers in zebra mussels performed under laboratory conditions.

Contamination of freshwater with priority substances is a serious environmental problem in Europe nowadays and mussels are one of the main indicators for pollution. The approach to investigate the effects of decreasing concentrations of two priority heavy metals on mussels is of great importance for aquatic monitoring and environmental impact assessment.

Therefore, we believe that the topic of the present study is very relevant to the concept of **Periodicum biologorum**.

We confirm that this manuscript has not been published elsewhere and it is not under consideration by another journal. All authors have approved the manuscript and agree with its submission to **Periodicum biologoru**.

Thank you for your consideration!

Best Regards,

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