

Discipline Case Digest



COLLEGE OF
APPLIED BIOLOGY
Professional Accountability

Discipline File 11-01

Subject Members: Biologist In Training, (name withheld)

Status: Resolved

Date of file completion: October 2011

Allegation: that a member of the College violated the Code of Ethics in that the member did use work of another without full and proper referencing.

Background: in 2003 a member of the College (employed by Company A) prepared a report to support an application for harbour dredging on behalf of a client. In 2008, the client provided the 2003 report to Company B requesting that the report be updated to address a new dredging application. The member named in this complaint relied heavily on the 2003 report in preparing the new application. Although the member did reference the 2003 report, the member did not specifically reference the report in the numerous sections of the 2003 report that appeared verbatim in the 2008 document. The author of the 2003 report filed a complaint with the College alleging that the named member did not properly acknowledge the contributions of the earlier report in the 2008 document.

When the matter was brought to the attention of the named member, an apology to the original author and to the College was immediately forthcoming. The named member recognized that assumptions were made as to the format of the filing when presented with the earlier version of the report from the client, and that those assumptions were in fact incorrect – that appropriate acknowledgement must always be included when using the work of another. The named member also advised that the episode had happened very early on in their career and viewed the event with embarrassment. The complainant accepted the named member's apology.

Status: Declared satisfactorily resolved