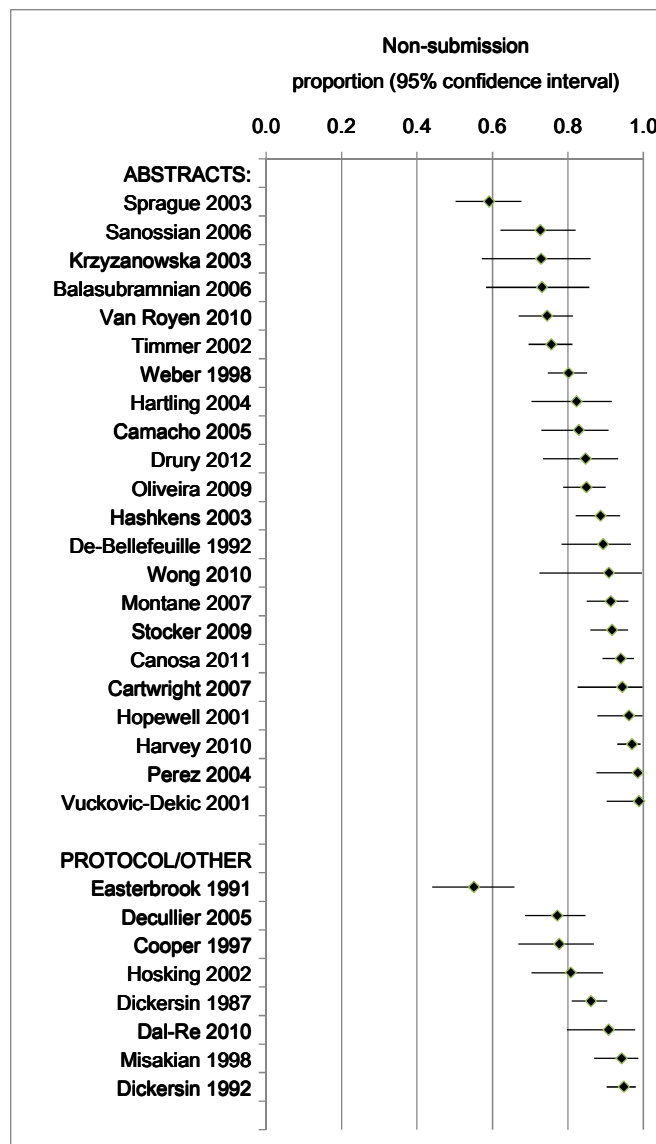


Appendix S3: Forest plots of stated reasons for nonpublication of studies

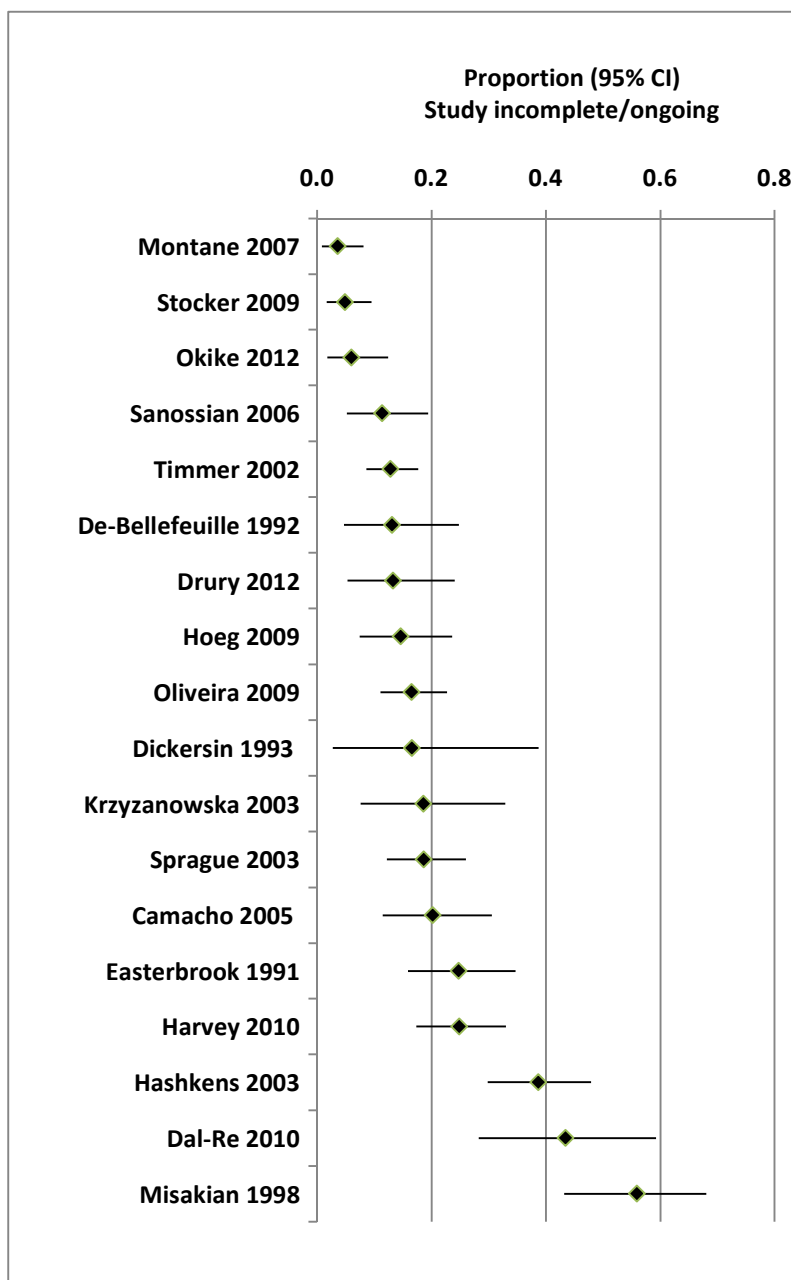
Notes: The number of unpublished studies was used as the denominator to calculate the proportion of non-submission and specific reasons for non-publication for each included survey report. For estimating 95% confidence intervals, heterogeneity testing and meta-regression analyses, proportions of reasons were transformed to normally distributed values using the Freeman-Tukey transformation methods. Then the Freeman-Tukey transformed proportions were transformed back to usual proportions for the forest plots.

A3.1 – Proportion of non-submission in un-published studies



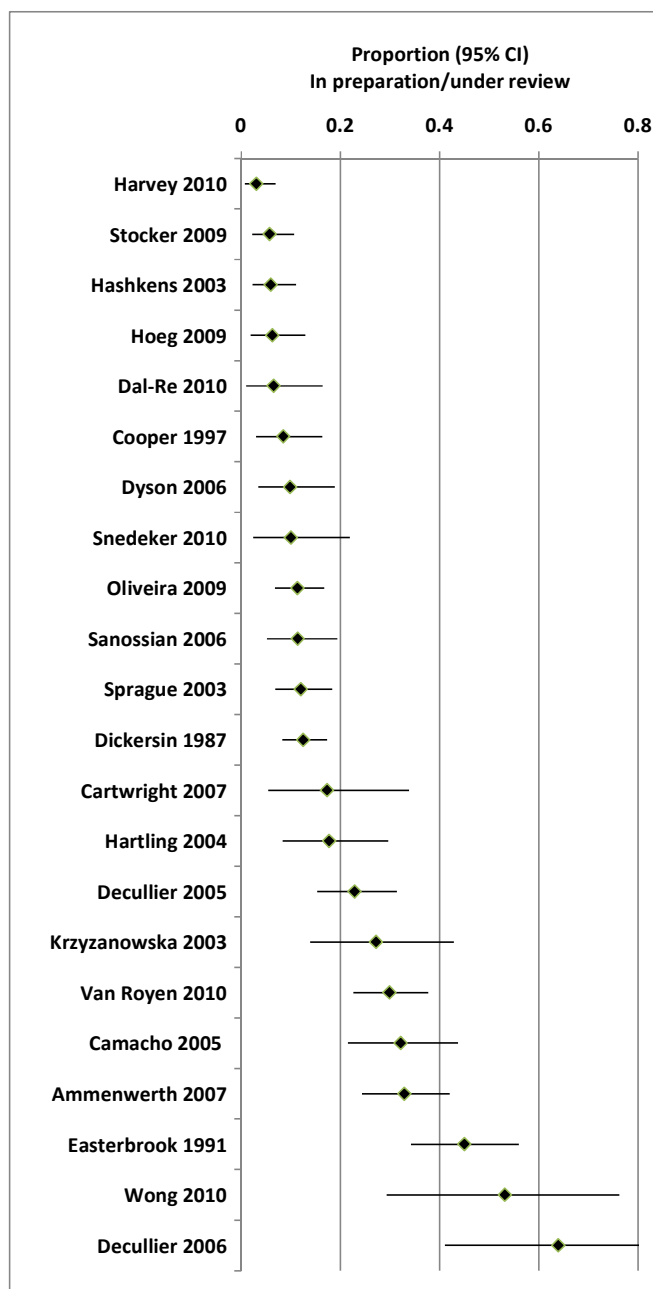
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 211.37$, $df=29$; ($P < 0.001$); $I^2 = 86.3\%$ (95% CI 81.5%, 89.8%)

A3.2 –Study incomplete or still ongoing



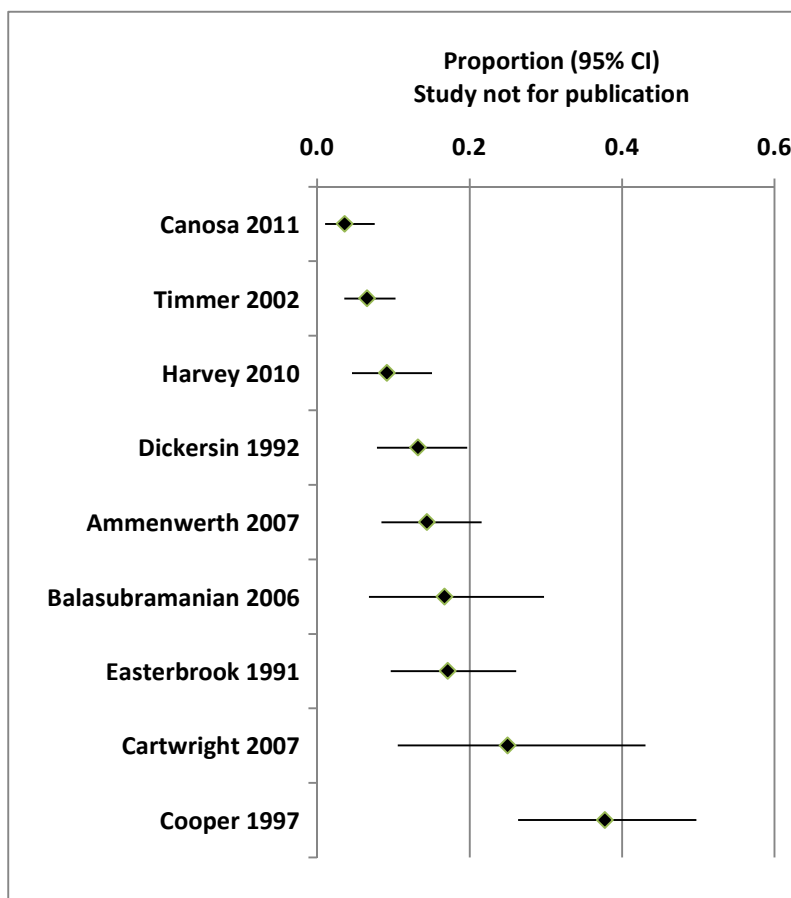
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=146.1$, $df=17$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=88.4\%$ (95% CI 83.1%, 92.0%)

A3.3 – Manuscript in preparation or under review



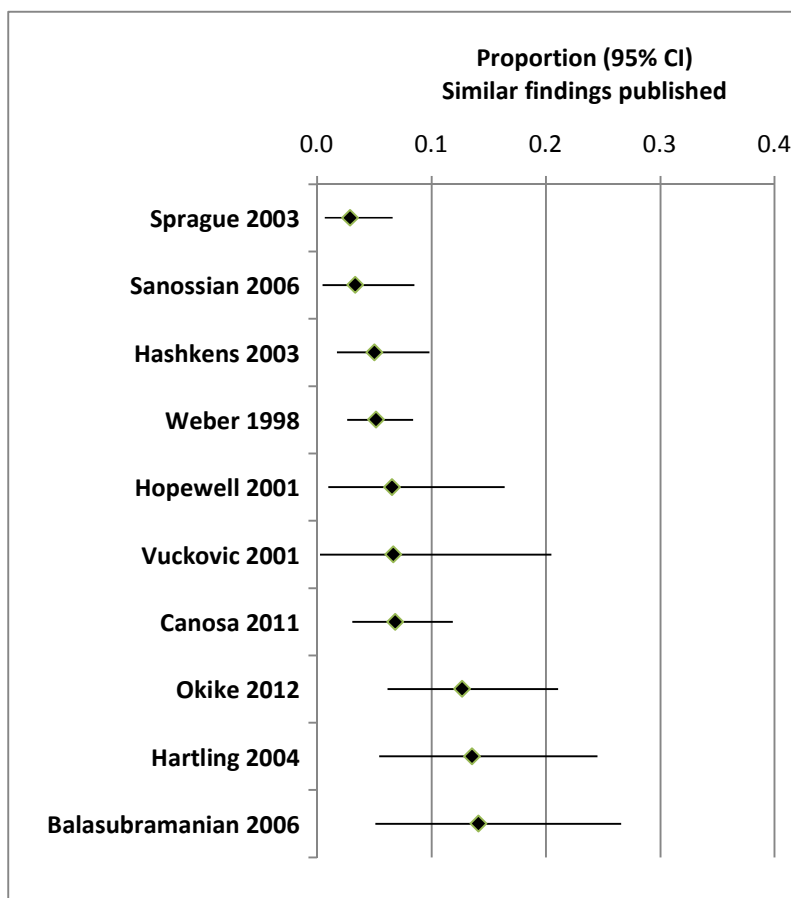
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=186.8$, $df=21$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=88.8\%$ (95% CI 84.3%, 91.9%)

A3.4 – Study not for publication (e.g., feasibility or pilot trials)



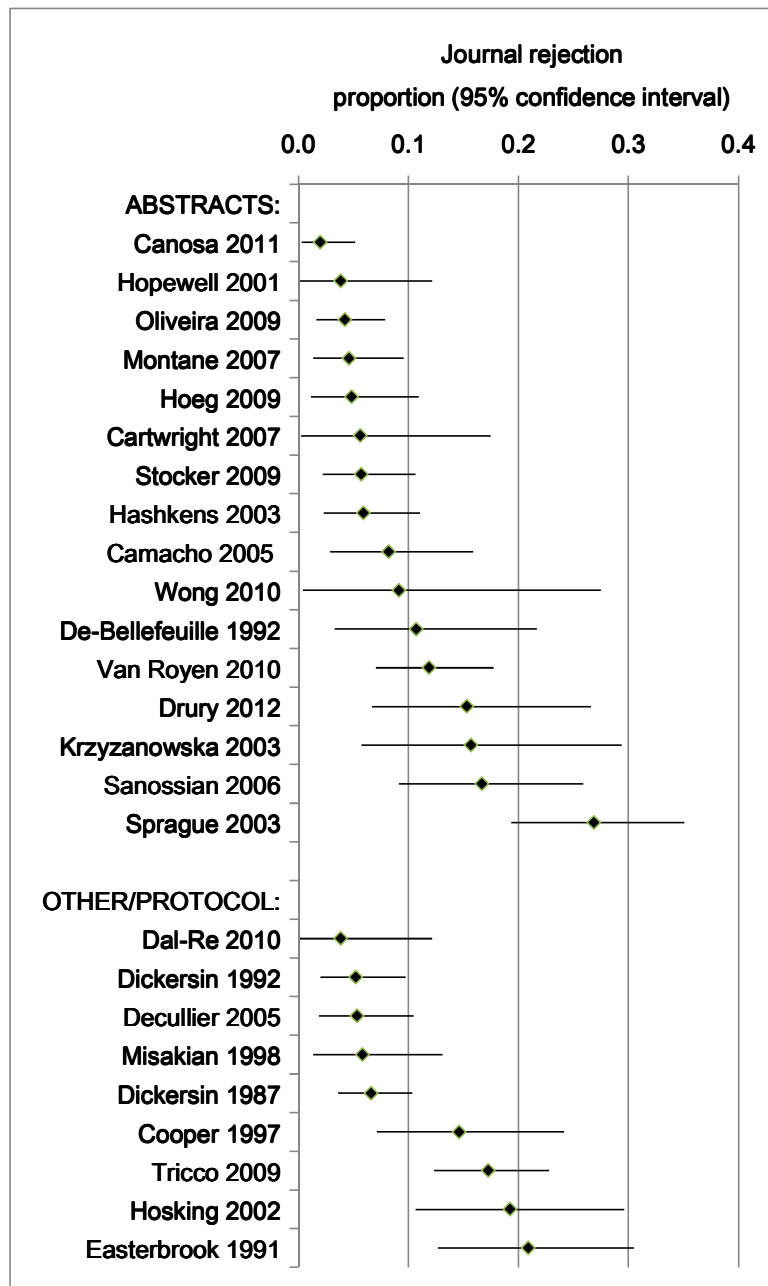
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=52.3$, $df=8$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=84.7\%$ (95% CI 72.7%, 91.4%)

A3.5 – Similar findings published by others



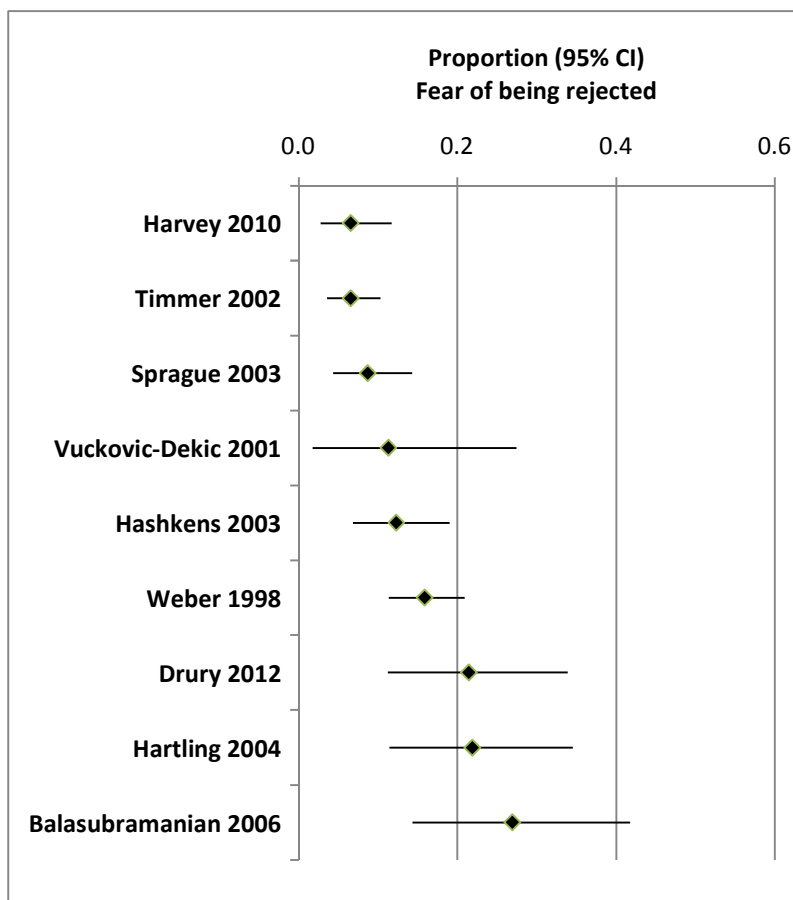
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=15.0$, $df=9$; ($P<0.091$); $I^2=40.0\%$ (95% CI 0.0%, 71.4%)

A3.6 –Submission rejected by journal



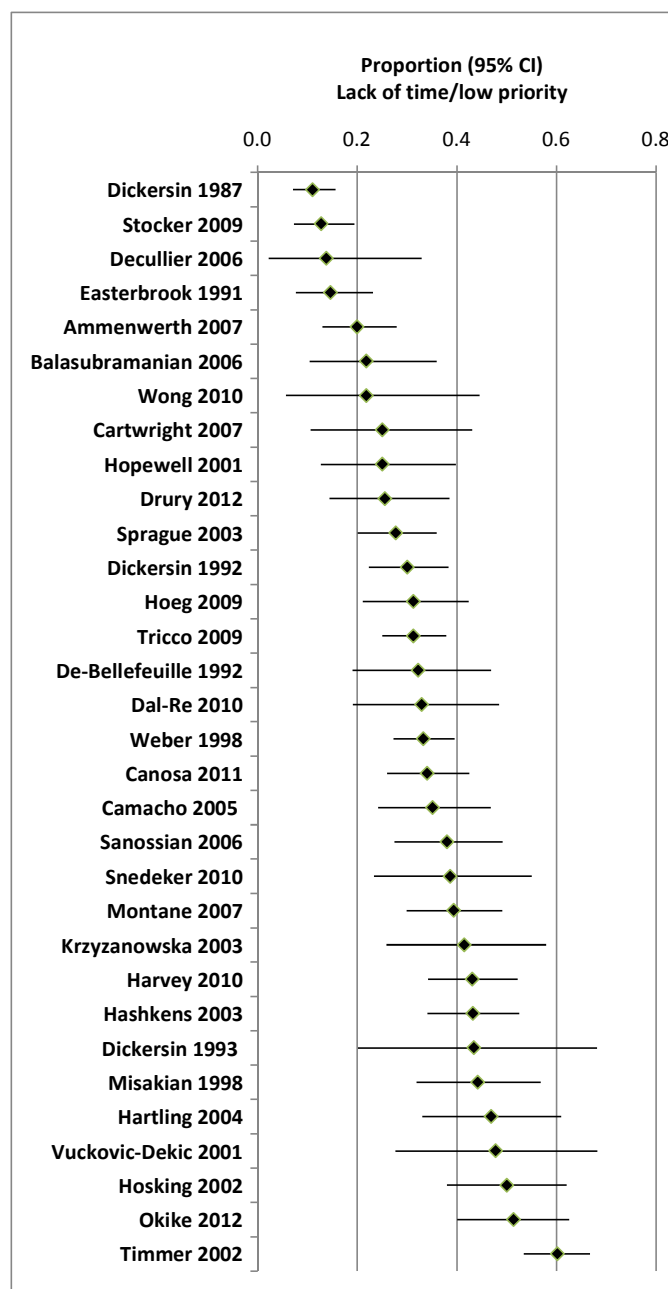
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=105.1$, $df=24$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=77.2\%$ (95% CI 66.7%, 84.4%)

A3.7 – Fear of being rejected



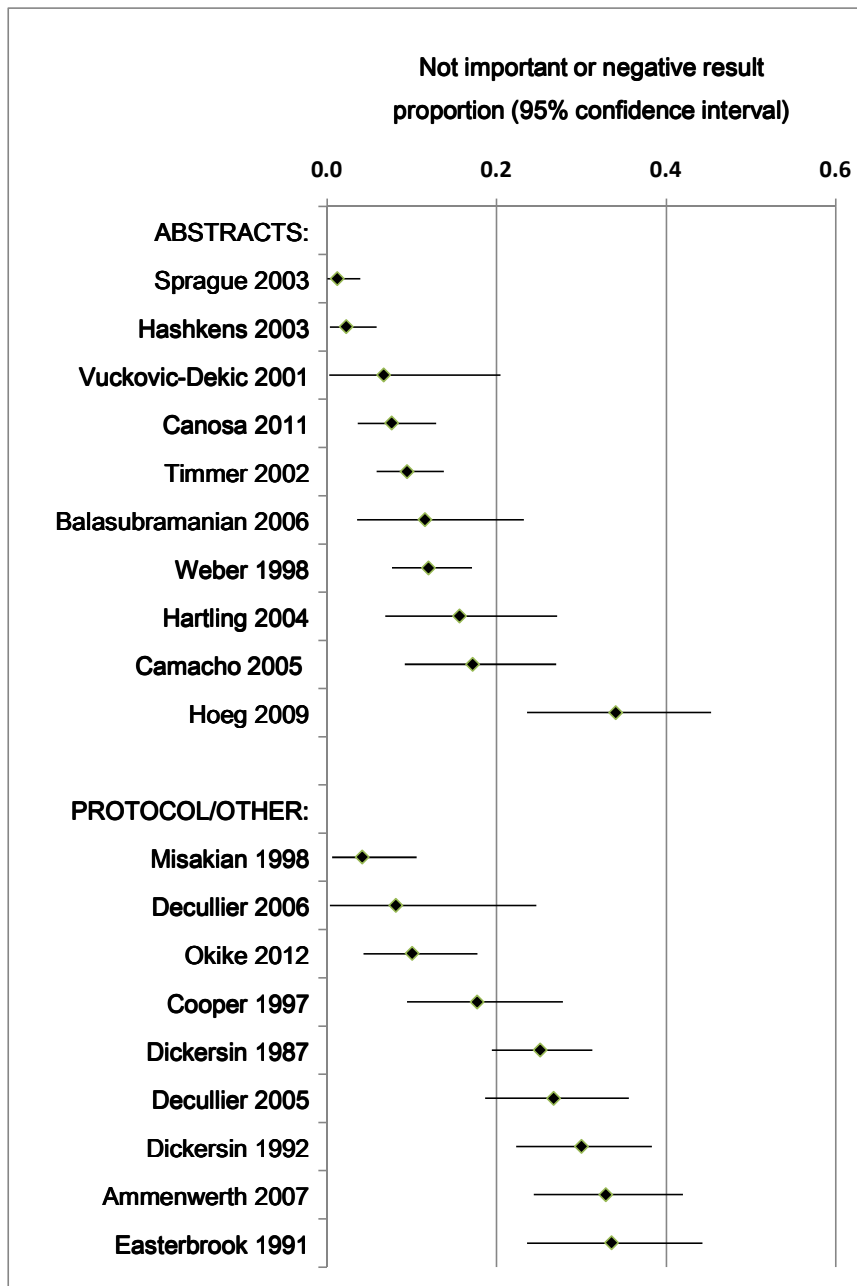
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=28.2$, $df=8$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=71.7\%$ (95% CI 44.2%, 85.6%)

A3.8 – Lack of time or low priority



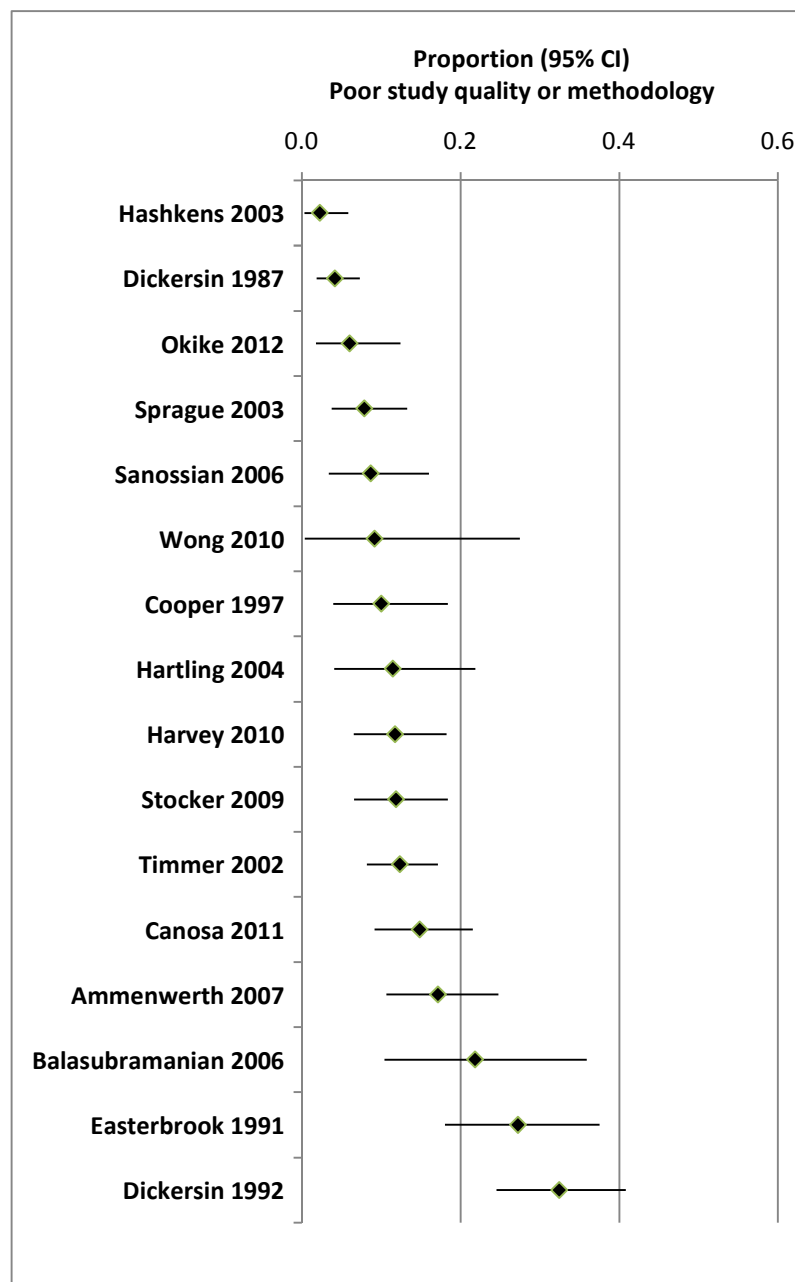
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=232.7$, $df=31$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=86.7\%$ (95% CI 82.3%, 90.0%)

A3. 9 – Not important or negative results



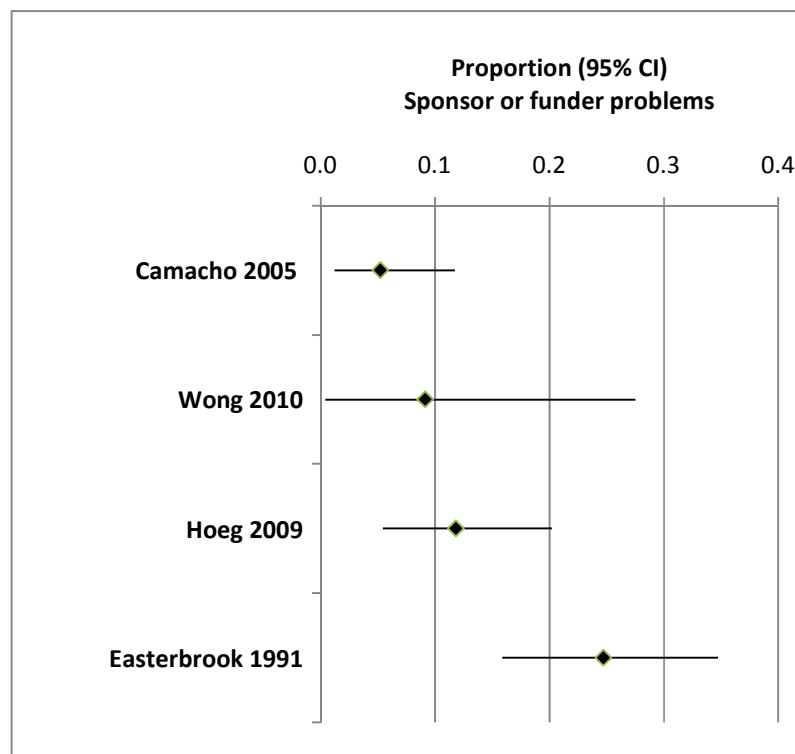
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=183.8$, $df=18$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=90.2\%$ (95% CI 86.2%, 93.1%)

A3.10 – Poor study quality or methodology



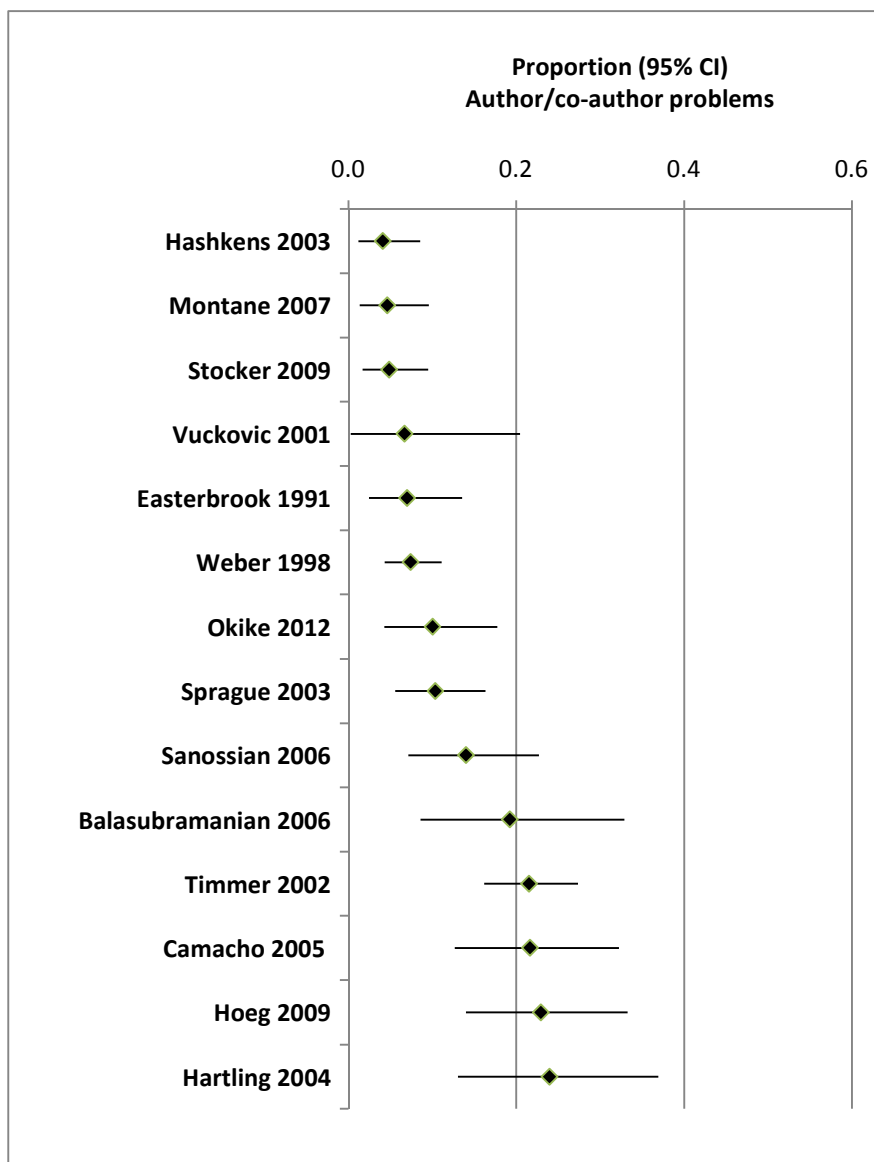
Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=92.8$, $df=15$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=83.8\%$ (95% CI 75.1%, 89.5%)

A3.11 – Sponsor or funder problem



Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=12.7$, $df=3$; ($P=0.005$); $I^2=76.4\%$ (95% CI 35.3%, 91.4%)

A3.12 – Author/co-author problem



Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=64.7$, $df=13$; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=79.9\%$ (95% CI 67.1%, 87.7%)