

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	Journal of Advances in Microbiology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JAMB_95397
Title of the Manuscript:	Effect of Wood Ash In The Production of Soumbala From Parkia biglobosa Seeds in Côte d'Ivoire
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Compulsory REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript)</p> <p>2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p> <p>3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive?</p> <p>4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p> <p>5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct?</p> <p>6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form.</p> <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<p>1. It is my opinion that the manuscript might be relevant for the scientific community but even more important for the local authorities, policy-makers and decision makers. The divulgation of these results help societies of developing countries to improve their quality of life and make a better use of the resources that they have available.</p> <p>2. The title that I am suggesting is "Effect of Wood Ash In The Preparation of Soumbala From Parkia biglobosa Seeds" (see the tracked changes in the manuscript attached). I suggest to change the term "production" by "preparation", since we are not talking about an industrial process but about a domestic application. Also, I am suggesting to remove "in Côte d'Ivoire" from the title to attract a wider audience, as it will not look like the results and conclusions are only applicable to Côte d'Ivoire.</p> <p>3. The following are the modification that I am suggesting (see attached manuscript with the tracked changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim: Use the term "preparation" rather than "production". I suggest to add after "soumbala" the following clarification: "(traditional condiment used across West Africa)." - Methodology: Could the authors mention the respective provinces of Côte d'Ivoire for the markets from where the samples were taken? - Results: It would necessary to add the threshold value of CFU. For example, reporting how many CFU were found in the commercial soumbala, which could serve as reference. - Conclusions: Use the term "enhancing" rather than "catalytic" as there is no evidence on the reasons for which the fermentation was ameliorated. Also, the last sentence of the conclusion section ("Soumbala" produced in the laboratory were free of lactic acid bacteria and fungi at the end of fermentation.") does not agree with the results that you are reporting in the results section: "lactic bacteria varied from 2 to 3.6 log (CFU/g) both in the control and in the seeds with wood ash added". Please, amend accordingly. <p>4. I found the structure of the manuscript to be appropriate. However, I suggest to link more the very short sentences to create slightly longer sentences and improve the readability of the manuscript.</p> <p>5. In my opinion, some explanations could be enhanced. For example: "<i>The increase in pH observed during the fermentation of seeds could be explained by the activity of Bacillus which constitute the majority and predominant flora. These microorganisms degrade the proteins of the seeds and lead to the release of peptides, amino acids and the formation of ammonia. The released ammonium ion is the basis for the increase in pH during the fermentation [17].</i>" This explanation does not seem very reasonable. I have tried to find more information in the article of Pelig-Ba [17] but this author does not mention the release of ammonia. In general, fermentations decrease the pH because of the formation of organic acids. It is try that the mineralization of proteins lead to the formation of ammonium, which under high pH will be released as ammonia, but what cause the release of ammonia is an alkaline agent. Could be possible that the alkaline nutrients of the locust seed are the responsible of the increase in the pH? (e.g potassium.). Please, see more comments in the market-up manuscript</p> <p>6. I have tried to access to the guide for authors to check what is the suggested referencing style by the editors but I cannot access with the network of the university because it says that the website is not safe (see the screenshot below). It is my opinion that this is not the correct form of including a direct citation of the work of other authors in the text. It should be written, for example, "...described by Martínez-Herrera et al. [15]..." rather than just "...described by [15]..." In addition, I would to include the DOI of each reference (if it is available) in the reference list.</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Please, use American or British English but not a combination of both. Please, see some comments in the marked-up manuscript.</p>	

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Optional/General comments	Please, see the market-up manuscript that I am sending attached.	

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

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