

Review Form 1.7

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_105144
Title of the Manuscript:	Morphological characteristics of different isolates of <i>C. fimbriata</i> on oat meal agar
Type of the 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:

(<https://www.journalijpss.com/index.php/IJPSS/editorial-policy>)

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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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is the manuscript important for scientific community? (Please write few sentences on this manuscript) 2. Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title) 3. Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? 4. Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate? 5. Do you think the manuscript is scientifically correct? 6. Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestion of additional references, please mention in the review form. <p><u>(Apart from above mentioned 6 points, reviewers are free to provide additional suggestions/comments)</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This manuscript holds significance for the scientific community, particularly in the field of plant pathology and agricultural research. It addresses the crucial issue of pomegranate wilt, a disease caused by <i>Ceratocystis fimbriata</i>, which poses a substantial threat to pomegranate cultivation. The study focuses on the morphological variability of different isolates of <i>C. fimbriata</i> obtained from various pomegranate-growing districts in Karnataka. By characterizing the morphological traits such as perithecia, ascospores, endoconidia, and aleurioconidia, the research sheds light on potential variations within the pathogen's population. This information could aid in understanding the disease's behavior, spread, and potential management strategies. Moreover, the manuscript contributes to the knowledge base concerning <i>C. fimbriata</i>'s biology and its interaction with pomegranate plants, offering insights that could inform disease control efforts and agricultural practices. 2. The title "Morphological characteristics of different isolates of <i>C. fimbriata</i> on oat meal agar" effectively conveys the subject of the article, which is about studying the appearance of various isolates of <i>C. fimbriata</i> on oat meal agar. However, it could be enhanced to be more engaging and informative. Here's an alternative title: "Diversity in Morphological Characteristics of <i>C. fimbriata</i> Isolates on Oat Meal Agar: Unveiling Variability and Patterns" 3. The abstract gives a concise overview of the study's focus on the morphological characteristics of different isolates of <i>Ceratocystis fimbriata</i> associated with pomegranate wilt in Karnataka. It discusses the importance of pomegranate as a fruit crop and highlights the significance of understanding the disease and its causal agent. The abstract outlines the limited research on this topic and mentions the recent increase in wilt infections in Karnataka. The abstract does a good job of summarizing the key points of the study, including the aim to investigate the morphological variability of <i>C. fimbriata</i> isolates. It mentions the specific techniques used, such as cultivation on oat meal agar, and provides important findings related to colony diameter, perithecia characteristics, ascospores, endoconidia, and aleurioconidia. <p>However, there are a few aspects that could enhance the comprehensiveness of the abstract:</p> <p>Contextual Importance: The abstract could further emphasize why understanding the morphological characteristics and variability of the pathogen is important. For instance, how might these insights contribute to managing or mitigating the wilt disease?</p> <p>Results Impact: While the abstract does mention the findings regarding the size and characteristics of perithecia, ascospores, endoconidia, and aleurioconidia, it could briefly touch upon the potential implications of these findings. Do these variations have any implications for disease severity or management strategies?</p> <p>Conclusion: It might be beneficial to conclude the abstract by summarizing the significance of the morphological variability findings. Are the observed variations within an expected range, and do they suggest any need for further research or adaptation of disease management strategies?</p> <p>Language Clarification: Some sentences are a bit lengthy and could be rephrased for clarity and flow</p>	

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	<p>4. The text includes the subsections or the detailed structure of the manuscript, however it does not follow the format of Journal Title: Clearly and concisely represents the content of the study. Introduction: the introduction provides a clear background, outlines the problem, and presents a solid rationale for conducting the study on the morphological variability of <i>C. fimbriata</i>. "Material and Methods" section appears to be organized and follows a logical sequence of steps for conducting the research. It provides sufficient detail for readers to understand how the study was conducted and how the data were collected. Presents the findings of the study in a clear and organized manner using text, tables, figures, and other visual aids. Avoid interpretation in this section. Discussion section lacks future research directions. It is suggested to enhance the overall discussion's depth and completeness. Conclusion is descriptive and factual, providing a concise summary of the study's findings without delving into broader implications or potential applications of the results.</p> <p>5. The manuscript is a research paper focused on the morphological characteristics of different isolates of the fungus <i>Ceratocystis fimbriata</i>, particularly in relation to its association with pomegranate wilt. The study involves the isolation, identification, pathogenicity testing, and morphological variability analysis of these isolates. The manuscript is structured in a standard scientific research paper format, including sections such as Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, and Discussion. It seems to present findings related to the characteristics of the fungus and its potential role in causing wilt disease in pomegranate plants.</p>	
<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>1. Is language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article appear to be generally suitable for scholarly communication, particularly in terms of providing detailed descriptions of experimental procedures, observations, and results related to the study of <i>Ceratocystis fimbriata</i>. The article demonstrates a scientific writing style by presenting specific measurements, observations, and comparisons, which is essential in scholarly communications.</p> <p>However, there are a few aspects that could be improved for enhanced clarity and coherence:</p> <p>Organization: The text lacks clear section headings (e.g., Introduction, Methodology, Results, Discussion, Conclusion) commonly found in scholarly articles. Having structured headings helps readers navigate the content more effectively.</p> <p>Citation Style: While the article references previous studies to contextualize its findings, it doesn't follow a specific citation style (e.g., APA, MLA, Chicago) consistently. A standardized citation style is crucial for scholarly communication.</p> <p>Conciseness: Some sentences are quite lengthy and complex, which might require readers to read them multiple times to fully grasp their meaning. Breaking down complex sentences and using clear, concise language can enhance readability.</p> <p>Discussion and Implications: While the text provides detailed observations and results, it lacks a more in-depth discussion of the implications of the findings. Scholarly articles typically delve into the implications of their results, relate them to existing literature, and suggest potential applications or future research directions.</p> <p>Limitations and Future Directions: Including a section that addresses limitations of the study and potential future research directions can enhance the scholarly rigor of the article.</p> <p>Editing and Proofreading: There are a few minor grammatical errors and inconsistencies in the writing that could be addressed with thorough editing and proofreading.</p> <p>In summary, while the article demonstrates a scientific approach to research and presents valuable findings, there is room for improvement in terms of organization, citation style, conciseness, and the inclusion of deeper discussion and implications. Addressing these aspects could enhance the article's suitability for scholarly communications.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>		

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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>	

Reviewer Details:

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