

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_124968
Title of the Manuscript:	Incidence of Mealybug and Red cotton bug in Bt cotton hybrids under protected and unprotected condition
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is important for the scientific community because it provides valuable insights into the dynamics of sucking pests, mealybugs, and red cotton bugs, under both protected and unprotected conditions in Bt cotton hybrids. The detailed findings contribute to the growing knowledge of pest behavior in response to different protection levels and hybrid varieties, which is crucial for improving pest management strategies in cotton production. I appreciate the manuscript for its practical relevance and robust experimental design. The results offer useful information for sustainable cotton cultivation by highlighting the importance of hybrid selection and protection measures in minimizing pest-related yield losses.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>"Incidence of Mealybug and Red Cotton Bug in Bt Cotton Hybrids Under Protected and Unprotected Conditions"</p> <p>Alternatively, you can emphasize the pest management approach: "Impact of Protective Measures on Mealybug and Red Cotton Bug Incidence in Bt Cotton Hybrids" Mention the scientific name, family and order of the insects</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract of article is comprehensive. But there are some points need to added i.e Scientific Name, family and order of the insects. The abstract could be streamlined by reducing the number of specific details about individual hybrid performances. While important, it might be better to focus on the broader trends for the sake of brevity. Suggested change: Condense the details by emphasizing the overall patterns rather than listing each hybrid's performance. The abstract could conclude with a brief sentence on the implications of these results for pest management strategies in Bt cotton cultivation.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>Current Subsections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract: Comprehensive, though could be slightly refined (as suggested earlier). Introduction: Clearly presents the background and justification for the study, but could benefit from explicitly stating the objectives or hypotheses. Material and Methods: Adequate, as it describes the experimental setup, the treatments, and how data was collected. Results and Discussion: Provides detailed data on pest populations and interactions between hybrids and protection levels. The presentation is good, though separating "Results" from "Discussion" might make it easier to follow. Conclusion: Summarizes the key findings, but a brief statement about the broader implications for pest management and cotton cultivation could be added. <p>Suggestions for Improvement:</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>Objectives: Include a brief section at the end of the introduction explicitly stating the study's objectives or research questions. This makes it clear what the research is trying to achieve. Problem Statement: Further emphasize the significance of managing mealybugs and red cotton bugs in Bt cotton cultivation and why this study is important for improving cotton yield.</p> <p>Material and Methods:</p> <p>Clarify the study's timeframe. Specify whether the study was conducted over multiple growing seasons of 2023-24.</p> <p>Sample size: "Populations were recorded on five randomly selected plants" could benefit from more</p>	

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	<p>detail about the location of plants, replicates, or whether observations were taken periodically.</p> <p>Experimental Design: If the manuscript does not already include details on replication, randomization, and data analysis, these should be clearly outlined.</p> <p>Data Analysis: A separate subsection on how statistical analyses were performed would enhance clarity (e.g., what tests were used, significance levels).</p> <p>Results and Discussion: Results: Present the findings in a factual, data-driven manner without interpretation. Discussion: Analyze and interpret the results, compare them with other studies, and explain their broader implications. Figures and Tables: Ensure tables and figures are well-referenced and clearly tied to the discussion. Each table or figure should have a brief but descriptive caption.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Broader Implications: After summarizing the findings, it could benefit from a few sentences discussing how these results can be applied in real-world pest management practices or future research.</p> <p>Optional Additions: Literature Review: If the introduction is too brief, you might consider adding a literature review section to summarize previous studies on mealybug and red cotton bug management in cotton.</p> <p>Acknowledgments: If applicable, include a section acknowledging contributions, funding, or institutional support.</p> <p>In conclusion, the current subsections and structure are appropriate, but minor adjustments—particularly separating results from the discussion and emphasizing the study's objectives—would improve clarity and readability.</p>	
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound as it provides a well-structured, empirical investigation into the effects of mealybug and red cotton bug infestations on Bt cotton hybrids under protected and unprotected conditions. The methodology is clear, with detailed descriptions of the experimental setup, pest monitoring, and statistical analysis, ensuring reproducibility and reliability. The study appropriately uses multiple hybrids and treatment conditions, yielding valuable insights into pest population dynamics and the effectiveness of protective measures. The data-driven results, supported by statistical significance, highlight the manuscript's technical strength and relevance to pest management strategies in cotton cultivation.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</p>	<p>The references provided in the manuscript appear to be relevant, but the majority are relatively dated, with only a few recent citations. Since the study deals with pest dynamics in Bt cotton, it would be beneficial to include more recent research on pest management, cotton production, and the evolution of pest populations in Bt cotton, particularly studies from the last five years. This would provide a more updated perspective and strengthen the manuscript's scientific relevance.</p> <p>Additional references could include recent findings on pest resistance, environmental factors influencing pest populations, and advancements in integrated pest management (IPM) techniques in cotton farming. For instance, research on climate change impacts on pest prevalence or new biological control methods for managing mealybugs and red cotton bugs could further support and contextualize the study's findings.</p> <p>For the format follow the author guidelines.</p>	

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Minor REVISION comments Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	The language and English quality of the article are generally clear and understandable, but there are areas that could benefit from revision for better flow and precision. Some sentences are a bit lengthy phrased, which can affect readability. Improving sentence structure, grammar, and clarity would enhance the scholarly communication of the article. Additionally, attention to technical terminology and consistency in presenting data could further improve the manuscript's overall quality. A minor revision focusing on these linguistic aspects would make the manuscript more polished and suitable for publication.	
Optional/General comments	The manuscript is comprehensive and presents valuable data on the impact of pest management strategies on Bt cotton hybrids. Incorporating the above suggestions, especially improving clarity in certain sections and refining the discussion on pest dynamics, will strengthen the overall quality. Once these revisions are made, the manuscript will be better positioned for publication.	

PART 2:

	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)
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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