

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Research in Crop Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJRCS_123401
Title of the Manuscript:	A Study on the Morphology and Molecular Biology of Tropical Strawberries
Type of the Article	Original 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 presents an important study that could help advance strawberry cultivation and production in tropical regions. The identification of high-yielding and locally adapted strawberry varieties has significant socio-economic relevance for farmers in countries like Bangladesh. The integration of morphological and molecular analyses has enabled a thorough characterization of the strawberry genotypes evaluated. Overall, the multi-disciplinary approach and research rigor demonstrated in this study make it a valuable addition to the scientific literature. The systematic methodology and detailed results will certainly benefit the strawberry research community. Its practical orientation and focus on tropical production conditions enhance the applicability and impact of the findings. I appreciate the efforts made by the authors in conducting this comprehensive evaluation, which could ultimately aid in developing improved strawberry varieties for tropical growers.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title "A Study on the Morphology and Molecular Biology of Tropical Strawberries" is clear and directly indicates the scope and focus of the manuscript. It clearly conveys that the study examined both the morphological and molecular characteristics of strawberry genotypes under tropical conditions. The title appropriately captures the key aspects addressed in the research - morphology, molecular analysis and the tropical production context. I find the title to be suitable as it precisely represents the content covered in the manuscript. No changes to the title are needed in my opinion. The current title is descriptive yet concise, and will help attract the intended readership working in tropical fruit genetics and breeding. It accurately summarizes the key elements of the study without being overly long. Therefore, I would recommend keeping the proposed title as is for this manuscript.</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>I have reviewed the abstract and find it to be reasonably comprehensive in summarizing the key aspects of the study. Here are a few suggestions to potentially strengthen the abstract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specify the five strawberry genotypes/cultivars evaluated (e.g. BARI Strawberry 1, 2, 3 etc.) rather than just referring to them numerically. - Mention the location where the study was conducted (Bangladesh) for additional context. - Briefly state the objectives e.g. "The objectives of this study were to..." - For the molecular analysis component, specify the number of SSR markers evaluated initially vs finally selected. - Quantify or qualify the main findings regarding genetic diversity and relationships among genotypes based on SSR analysis. - Indicate the broader conclusion/outcome, e.g. identification of promising cultivars for the region. <p>The additions suggested above could help provide more methodological and conceptual clarity upfront for readers. No major points appear to be missing that would require addition to the abstract. With minor tweaks as proposed, the abstract could better set the stage for the full article content. Please consider revising the abstract accordingly before proceeding with publication.</p>	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>Yes, upon review I find that the subsections and overall structure of the manuscript are appropriately organized and follow a logical flow.</p> <p>The introduction section adequately presents relevant background information and sets the context for the research objectives. It justifies the need for the study without being too broad or lengthy.</p> <p>The materials and methods section is clearly written and provides sufficient experimental details to allow reproducibility. The descriptions of genotypes, trial design, crop management protocols, observation parameters and statistical analysis are appropriately detailed.</p> <p>The results and discussion sections present the findings in an effective manner with appropriate use of text, tables and figures. Grouping the morpho-agronomic and molecular analysis results separately aids readability. Statistical analysis is reported wherever needed.</p> <p>The conclusion succinctly summarizes the main outcomes and emphasizes the identification of promising genotypes suited for tropical conditions.</p> <p>References are cited as needed within the text and compiled as per journal format at the end, demonstrating thorough literature review.</p> <p>Overall, the manuscript flows logically from introduction to conclusions. Sufficient experimental and</p>	

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	<p>analytical details are provided under suitable subheadings to facilitate comprehension. Therefore, I approve of the subsections and structure adopted in this paper. No modifications are necessary in my opinion.</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>This manuscript demonstrates scientific rigor through a well-planned and systematically executed study. The experimental design and methodology employed are technically sound and appropriate for addressing the research objectives. A suitable sample size and use of randomization principles strengthen the validity of results. Statistical analyses corroborate the observations and aid meaningful comparisons. Molecular techniques like SSR marker analysis are correctly applied to characterization at the DNA level. Findings are reliably presented with relevant quantification, statistics and visualization tools. References cited provide supporting context and validation. Overall, the research exhibits thoroughness from conceptualization through reporting. The multi-disciplinary approach utilizing both conventional and molecular tools lends robustness. In my opinion, this manuscript maintains high scientific standards and the results can be interpreted with confidence.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =</p>	<p>Overall, the references appear to be sufficient and relatively recent. The majority of references cited are from the 2000s and later, which is generally considered to be a good indication of the currency of the literature.</p> <p>However, there are a few potential areas where additional references could be incorporated to strengthen the manuscript:</p> <p>Recent Studies on Tropical Strawberry Genetics: Given the focus on tropical strawberries, the authors could include more recent studies specifically addressing genetic diversity, molecular markers, and breeding programs in this region.</p> <p>Comparative Studies with Temperate Strawberries: Comparing the findings of this study with those from temperate strawberry research could provide valuable insights into the unique characteristics of tropical genotypes.</p> <p>Advancements in Molecular Techniques: The authors could mention any recent advancements in molecular techniques, such as whole-genome sequencing or RNA sequencing, that could be applied to future studies on strawberry genetics.</p>	

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<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Based on the provided manuscript, the language quality appears to be generally suitable for scholarly communication. The writing is clear, concise, and academic in tone. However, there are a few minor areas where the language could be further refined:</p> <p>Sentence Structure: Some sentences might be slightly convoluted or overly long. Breaking them down into shorter, more direct sentences can improve readability.</p> <p>Word Choice: Consider using more precise and specific vocabulary to enhance clarity and avoid ambiguity.</p> <p>Consistency: Ensure consistency in the use of terminology and style throughout the manuscript.</p> <p>Overall, the language quality is satisfactory. A careful review by a native English speaker or professional editor could help identify and address any minor issues.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statistical Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While the statistical analysis appears adequate, consider performing additional tests, such as ANOVA or Kruskal-Wallis, to strengthen the conclusions regarding differences among genotypes. ○ Provide more details on the statistical assumptions made and how they were checked (e.g., normality, homoscedasticity). 2. Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand the discussion to delve deeper into the implications of the findings, particularly regarding the relationship between morphological traits and genetic diversity. ○ Discuss the potential practical applications of the results for tropical strawberry breeding programs. 3. Literature Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update the literature review to include more recent studies, especially those focused on tropical strawberry genetics and breeding. ○ Compare and contrast the findings of this study with those of previous research in the field. 4. Experimental Details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide more information on the specific environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, humidity, light intensity) under which the experiment was conducted. ○ Clarify the criteria used for selecting the SSR markers employed in the study. 5. Conclusion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revise the conclusion to more effectively summarize the key findings and their implications. ○ Consider adding a brief outlook for future research directions based on the results of this study. <p>Addressing these compulsory revisions will significantly enhance the quality and impact of the manuscript.</p> <p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in detail)</i></p> <p>Based on the information provided, there do not appear to be any significant ethical issues directly related to the research itself. The authors seem to have followed standard scientific practices in conducting the study, collecting data, and analysing the results.</p> <p>However, it is essential to consider the following potential ethical concerns:</p> <p>Plant Material:</p> <p>Source and Provenance: If the strawberry genotypes were obtained from other researchers or institutions, ensure that proper permissions were obtained and that the plant material was handled ethically.</p> <p>Genetic Modification: If any of the genotypes were genetically modified, disclose this information and address any associated ethical considerations.</p>	

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	<p>Data Privacy and Sharing:</p> <p>If any personal or confidential data were collected (e.g., location information), ensure that appropriate measures were taken to protect privacy and maintain confidentiality.</p> <p>Consider the potential benefits and risks of sharing the data with the broader scientific community.</p>	
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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>	

Reviewer Details:

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