

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Scientific Research and Reports
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JSRR_128060
Title of the Manuscript:	Molecular detection and phylogenetic characterization of little leaf and witches' broom diseases associated with Jackal jujube (<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> L.) caused by phytoplasma 16Sr-VF strain in Kerala, India
Type of the Article	Research Article

PART 1: 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>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	The authors have attempted to identify and characterize a phytoplasma belonging to 16SrV-F subgroup causing little leaf and witches' broom disease in Jackal jujube (<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> L.) in Kerala, India. The occurrence of the same phytoplasma in the same host has been recently reported from the neighbouring state of Karnataka, India and the authors have now reported its occurrence in Kerala indicating that it is spreading in the region. As <i>Z. oenoplia</i> plant is perennial, it could serve as a reservoir / alternate for 16SrV-F phytoplasma aiding its spread to other plants or crops.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Identification and molecular characterization of a 16SrV-F phytoplasma associated with little leaf and witches' broom disease in Jackal jujube (<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> L.) in Kerala, India	

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<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>Yes, the abstract of the article is comprehensive.</p>	
<p>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</p>	<p>The authors have communicated the occurrence of little leaf and witches' broom diseases associated with Jackal jujube which the authors have identified as being caused by phytoplasma belonging to 16SrV-F strain.</p> <p>However, the manuscript is lacking in the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of diseased and healthy samples collected by the authors are not mentioned in the manuscript. 2. From the material and methods section on molecular identification, it appears that the authors have tested only one diseased and one healthy sample which is less for a conclusive study. The authors should have tested at least 5 diseased and healthy samples each. 3. The authors should have also sequenced at least 3 amplicons from diseased plants and deposited a representative sample. 4. The sequenced deposited by the authors is 802 bp whereas the yield of nested PCR mentioned in the manuscript is c 1.2 kb. This short sequence cannot be used to create the virtual restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) pattern using iPhyClassifier which is used to determine the phytoplasma strain. 5. The results and discussion section pertaining to PCR, BLAST and phylogenetic analysis needs major corrections. 6. The molecular weights in the gel pictures needs to be corrected. Moreover, the authors should provide a more clear gel picture. <p>In light of the above, the authors need to test more samples, obtain full length sequences of nested PCR that can be analyzed using iPhyClassifier so that the 16SrV-F strain can be confirmed.</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 authors could add more references of 16SrV-F phytoplasma reported in other plants species (if available).</p>	
<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The authors have made a good attempt to put across their research. However, in my opinion, the language / English quality of the article needs to be worked upon and improved further.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>In my opinion, the research article entitled 'Molecular detection and phylogenetic characterization of little leaf and witches' broom diseases associated with Jackal jujube (<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> L.) caused by phytoplasma 16Sr-VF strain in Kerala, India' may be rejected in its present form. It has repairable deficiencies and may be reconsidered. The authors need to test more diseased samples, obtain full length sequences of nested PCR products that can be analyzed using iPhyClassifier so that the 16SrV-F strain can be confirmed.</p>	

PART 2:

	<p>Reviewer's comment</p>	<p>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>
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

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