

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of Plant &amp; Soil Science</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_128402
Title of the Manuscript:	Diversity and distribution of Termitomyces spp. in the ecological niches of Central and Northern Kerala, India
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

#### **General guidelines for the 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 guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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#### **Important Policies Regarding Peer Review**

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### Review Form 3

#### PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>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.</b>	This manuscript significantly advances our understanding of the diversity and ecological role of <i>Termitomyces</i> species in Kerala, India. The comprehensive morphological and molecular characterization of the collected samples contributes to the taxonomy and systematics of this unique fungal genus. By identifying species such as <i>T. microcarpus</i> , <i>T. srilankensis</i> , and <i>T. fuliginosus</i> , and analyzing their habitat preferences and distribution, the study provides critical insights into the factors influencing fungal biodiversity in monsoon-dominated regions. Furthermore, the findings underscore the importance of conservation efforts for these ecologically and potentially economically significant mushrooms in their natural habitats.	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b>	The title of the article is suitable as it accurately reflects the focus on the diversity and distribution of <i>Termitomyces</i> species in Kerala. However, a more concise alternative could be:  "Diversity and Distribution of <i>Termitomyces</i> Species in Central and Northern Kerala, India".	
<b>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.</b>	The abstract is comprehensive, covering key aspects like objectives, methods, findings, and significance. Adding implications for conservation or potential applications of <i>Termitomyces</i> could enhance its impact.	
<b>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</b>	The manuscript appears scientifically correct, with thorough morphological and molecular characterizations supporting the findings. However, ensuring all methods and references align with current scientific standards would further validate its accuracy.	
<b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b>	The references are sufficient and include both foundational and recent studies. Adding more recent studies on <i>Termitomyces</i> ecology or molecular techniques could further strengthen the manuscript.	
<b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b>	The language is generally suitable for scholarly communication but could benefit from minor grammatical refinements and improved clarity in some sections for better readability.	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	The study is well-executed and contributes valuable insights into the biodiversity of <i>Termitomyces</i> in Kerala. Highlighting broader ecological or economic implications could enhance its relevance to a wider audience.	

#### 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)
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<b><u>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</u></b>	

#### Reviewer Details:

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