

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_129277
Title of the Manuscript:	Bacterial Stalk Rot (<i>Dickeya zeae</i>) of Maize: A New Critical Threat
Type of the Article	

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)
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.	<p>This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it provides a comprehensive overview of <i>Dickeya zeae</i>, a critical pathogen affecting maize and other economically important crops. It consolidates information on the pathogen's biology, taxonomy, host range, symptomatology, and management strategies, addressing an emerging global agricultural threat. Such detailed insights are valuable for devising targeted control measures and fostering collaborative research on crop protection.</p> <p>The manuscript needs to improve by incorporating summary tables or figures (e.g., a comparative table of management strategies or a flowchart of the disease cycle) to enhance readability and accessibility for readers.</p>	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	<p>Here is the alternative title which is more suitable for this manuscript</p> <p>The Emerging Silent Invader: <i>Dickeya zeae</i> and Its Impact on Maize Stalks</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>The abstract is informative but could benefit from enhanced clarity and focus. Suggestions for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a concise mention of the study's unique contribution (e.g., findings on resistance mechanisms or novel management strategies). • Clarify that the current control measures are inadequate and highlight the urgent need for alternative solutions like resistant cultivars. • Streamline language for readability, avoiding redundancy (e.g., "requires great attention to manage effectively" could be replaced with "demands immediate attention for effective management"). 	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	<p>The manuscript appears scientifically sound, providing well-referenced and detailed information. However, the inclusion of additional experimental data or case studies on the pathogen's recent outbreaks and management effectiveness would enhance its robustness.</p>	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.	<p>The references are extensive and cover a wide range of studies. However, some are relatively dated. Including more recent studies (post-2020) on <i>Dickeya zeae</i> or related management techniques would strengthen the relevance of the manuscript.</p>	
Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?	<p>The manuscript's language is generally suitable for scholarly communication but requires minor revisions for grammatical accuracy and coherence. For example, phrases like "it found to be severe in heavy rainfall area" should be corrected to "it is found to be severe in areas with heavy rainfall."</p>	
Optional/General comments		

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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:

Name:	Pravin Babasaheb Khaire
Department, University & Country	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, India