

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of Plant & Soil Science
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJPSS_73108
Title of the Manuscript:	Assessing the Toxic Effects of Insecticides on Honey Bees in the West Gonja District of the Savannah Region of Ghana
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for 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 guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://peerreviewcentral.com/page/manuscript-withdrawal-policy>)

[Review Form 1.6](#)

PART 1: Review Comments

	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>
Compulsory REVISION comments		
Minor REVISION comments	<p>Abstract</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Study design: not mentioned that three insecticides were used- Methodology: live Live adult bees were randomly obtained. Add word “randomly”- Methodology: correct calculatedusing to read calculated using <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Insecticides are used during flowering and or preservation of crops. For what? The sentence is incomplete.- Generally the introduction need to be rewritten to concentrate more on the topic.- It lacks the strength and scientific backing <p>Problem statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Yet, the use of pesticides impact negatively on honey bees’ population directory or indirectly on ecosystems. Sentence to clear. How can pesticides impact negatively on honey bees’ population indirectly on ecosystems. This is what the sentence is communicating.- Pesticides weaken the resistance of bees to diseases making them susceptible to death by disease causing pathogens. Sentence is false.- The problem statement is not clear. It needs to be re-done. There is problem with sentence construction and scientific/article writing <p>Justification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is there a difference between weedicides and herbicides to make them to be included together in a sentence- This is the contact level that can cause a mortality of halve , correct halve to half- This difference in honey bees make them more vulnerable to insecticides than other insect species. To read” This difference of honey bees to other insects make them more vulnerable to insecticides compared to other insect species.” <p>Materials and method</p> <p>Study area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- First paragraph add period (.) at the end. North East Region in the North (Fig 1).- 8,352 sq. km. spell out sq. to read “square”- The district has two reserves. Are these game reserves of forest reserves <p>Sampling sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Collection and rearing processes not stated in detail? Was collection random? Using what? How? <p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- At the end of the paragraph put a period (.) <p>Oral interview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Which objective is it addressing?- Why are analysis statements presented here. There is analysis section where	<p>Corrected “Randomly” added Corrected</p> <p>Sentence deleted Introduction has been revised</p> <p>Sentence has been revised Sentence is deleted Problem statement is re-written</p> <p>Herbicide is deleted Halve is corrected to half Sentence corrected</p> <p>Period added “Sq” is spelled out as “Square”</p> <p>Yes, the reserves are forest reserves Process of collection was explained. Rearing was done by the Damongo Agriculture College staff.</p> <p>Period has been put</p>

	<p>these can be included</p> <p>Construction of test cages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- but only twelve of them were used for the study. Add the word “only”- Starting from sentence “Live adult bees were obtained from beehives by wearing a mask at 2:00 am (in the morning of the experiment) when the bees were outside the hive and not aggressive.”, its not part of construction of test cages. Determine the sub-heading for this section.- cage through that side by gently lifting it. Delete “that” and replace with “the open” to read ...cage through the open side by gently lifting it.- They were allowed to acclimatize. Replace “allowed” with “left”- On the morning of the experiment. Replace “On” with “In” <p>Preparation of concentrations and administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ... according to the recommended formulations. Replace “formulations” with “application rates”- Check whether litre or litter is fine to be used- A control solution was prepared for each dosage concentration using one litre of distilled water only. Why not just state, “distilled water was used as the control” <p>Application of doses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Method used is questionable because the spraying was done on top of the cage on a nylon mesh and not directly on the bees. This makes it difficult to know if the insecticides were equally applied on each bee. This possible unequal application of the insecticides could have affected the results observed. How did the authors ensure that all bees were applied same amounts of insecticide when applying on top of the nylon mesh <p>Determination of recommended formulated values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Using the data, the recommended formulated. Is it “formulated” or “application rate” <p>Percentage mortalities and calculation of LC50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the concentration corresponding to probit 5. What is probit 5? <p>Median lethal concentration (LC50) of Controller Super 2.5 EC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ... dead during 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 minutes was recorded. Replace “was” with “were” <p>Results and Discussion</p> <p>Starting from figure 2, the figure margins (border) are not clear</p> <p>Observations recorded during the study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In the morning of the experiment, bees were found resting on the nylon mesh above the cages. Change above to read “resting on the nylon mesh “covering the top part of the” cages”.- .. they became aggressive and started flying. How do you know they were aggressive?- How did you regard a bee as dead? <p>To make it easy to follow write discussion as you write results. In most cases, its only results and no discussion. Then when necessary do a general discussion combining explanation of different results that can create a story. Generally, the discussion need attention. Explain the observations and support you explanation with what is in literature.</p>	<p>This was to get first-hand information from farmers about the type insecticides used in the area and not to address any objective.</p> <p>“Only” is added Sampling is separated from construction of cages</p> <p>“that” is replaced with “the open”</p> <p>“Allowed” is replaced with “left” “On” is replaced with “in”</p> <p>“Formulations” is replaced with “application rates”.</p> <p>“Litre” is used and not “litter” Sentence was rephrased</p> <p>Authors ensured that 10 millilitres of insecticide was applied on each cage in 5 seconds. Since the bees were aggressive upon the application each bee was more likely to hit the surface of application.</p> <p>“Formulated” is replaced with “application rate”</p> <p>A type of regression where the dependent variable can take only two values</p> <p>“was” is replaced with “were”</p> <p>“Above” is replaced with “Covering the top part of the”</p> <p>“Aggressive” is replaced by “flying violently” “Dead” is replaced by “Motionless”</p> <p>Discussion has been improved upon</p>
--	---	---

Review Form 1.6

Optional/General comments	This is very good piece of research work which need polishing. It is worth publishing after attending to the comments made.	
---------------------------	---	--

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?	<u>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</u>	Suggested comments by reviewers were worked on