

## Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<a href="#">International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE &amp; Health</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_76181
Title of the Manuscript:	FUNGAL BIOFILMS IN DRINKING WATER STORAGE CONTAINERS: FLIPPING THOUGH THEIR HEALTH RISK POTENTIALS. A CASE-STUDY OF HOUSEHOLDS AT DIOBU, PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA.
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>)

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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> (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>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments	<p><b>TITLE</b> 1) Is the author trying to write "Flipping through their health risk" instead of "Flipping though their health risk" in the title?</p> <p><b>METHODS</b> 2) It was noted that the author used Sabroaud Dextrose Agar (SDA) treated with antibiotics to grow the fungi. Kindly state the antibiotics used in the current study. 3) Kindly state if any special training / skill the data collector has in order to collect the water sample in proper aseptic technique to minimize bias and errors 4) Kindly state if any special training / skill the lab assistant/ researcher has to carry out the proper inoculation of the fungi and the proper monitoring of the lab environment, temperature, humidity, etc. which can be confounding factors to affect the growth of the fungi. Author should state clearly the environment of the lab as reference for others to replicate similar study if needed. 5) In the description of the study area, the author claimed that the indoor temp is 37 degree celsius, but the water samples were inoculated at 25 degree celsius, will the difference in the surrounding temperature affect the study results?</p> <p><b>RESULTS</b> 6) Author claimed that no biofilm was formed for <i>Candida albicans</i> sp. However, <i>C. albicans</i> is one of the most commonly found fungus in the environment and <i>C. albicans</i> biofilm-associated infections occurring through the use of a medical device directly colonized by a biofilm or from a localized or disseminated infection originating from a biofilm is very common. Can the author explore any possible reasons of why <i>C. albicans</i> in the study did not form biofilm?</p> <p><b>DISCUSSION</b> 7) Author inserted the statement of "this may have resulted from favourable growth factors such as optimum temperature, nutrient and hydrogen ion concentration (pH)". Kindly explain how the factors as mentioned affect the current study results. 8) The explanation of mycotoxins produced by the fungi is a good piece of information for the readers. However, the mycotoxins are not explored in the current study. Thus, the information might not be relevant to be inserted. More attention should be paid to the objectives and the results obtained from the current study.</p> <p><b>CONCLUSION</b> 9) Presence of fungi in the drinking water storage could be a problem if there is any immunocompromised person in the household. Author should suggest on any recommended routine of cleaning and disinfection to minimize the occurrence fungi-related infection</p>	
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments	Not applicable	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are generally some typing errors and minor grammatical errors that require author attention to recheck and for proof-reading prior to publication.</li> <li>- Discussion should include more studies that are relevant to the current study</li> <li>- The conclusion of the study should answer the objective of the study which is whether household capacity will affect the fungal density in stored drinking water</li> </ul>	

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**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> <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>
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i> The study required the researcher to collect water samples from various housing units. However, the author did not mention receiving any approval from the relevant authority for the collection. - At the same time, did all the residents in the housing area agree for the water sample collection? The author should highlight the consent provided by the residents	

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