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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Research Journal of Agriculture**](https://journalarja.com/index.php/ARJA) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_ARJA\_136990** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **EFFECT OF METARHIZIUM ANISOPLIAE AS A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGAINST SWEET POTATO WEEVIL** |
| Type of the Article | **Research Paper** |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (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.** | **The research includes testing the efficacy of different fungal entomopathogens against sweet potato weevil in sweet potato. Particular fungal entomopathogen i.e *M. anisopliae* will be most effective against sweet potato weevil using ingestion method. But the application of these *M. anisopliae* at field level using ingestion method will be difficult.** | Yes, the use of Metarhizium anisopliae through the ingestion method for controlling the SPW will be adapted in a similar manner to baiting techniques used for rodent control, where bait-based control methods will also be applied to manage this beetle. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **Yes** |  |
| 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. | **Yes** |  |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | Major corrections include:   1. In Key words section: *entomopathogenic fungi* to be initalics 2. In all the cases et al. to be corrected writtern as et al. 3. Exanpasion of MG, MP, MR, S8, S10, S4, M1 are required, *Beauveria sp.* to be in italics and the type of positive and negative used is to be mentioned in “T1 – S8 (*Trichoderma asperellum*), T2 – S10 (*M. anisopliae*), T3 – S4 (Beauveria sp.), T4 – MG (*M. anisopliae*), T5 – MP (*M. anisopliae*), T6 – MR (*M. anisopliae*), T7 – Commercial product (*M. anisopliae*), T8 – M1 (*M. anisopliae*), T9 - positive control, T10 - negative control”. 4. All the subheadings under material and methods weren’t to be in italics. 5. The type of harvesting method to be mention in “The produced conidia was harvested by method”. 6. Under molecular characterization, whether the DNA of *Beauveria sp.* isolated or not. 7. If the experimental design has mentioned separate subheading the need not to include the sentence “experimental design was conduct using RCBD with three replications.” In bioassay procedure subheading. 8. Sentence “50 of SPW were used per treatment/box” is repeated under subheading bioassay procedure. 9. Under results section whether DNA extraction and PCR amplification has done for only *Metarhizium sp*. (S10) and the gel picture also included. 10. In the sentence “From the figure 2, treatment T6 (MR - *M. anisopliae*) using the "ingestion"”, it is figure 3. 11. Overall comparison has to be made with respect to ingestion and dipping method in “"ingestion" method recorded the highest mortality rate at 62.47%, whereas treatment T1 (S8 - *T. asperellum*) using the "dipping" method showed the lowest mortality rate at 12.90%. This indicates that the efficacy of the entomopathogens strongly depends on the application technique”. 12. Need to mention sentence propery which is A and B in “The effected of tuber by sweet potato weevil (SPW) infestation (A); and infected weevil exposed to fungi *M.* *anisopliae* (1.0 x 108 conidia/ml) under laboratory conditions (B). | I have corrected all suggested corrections according to your comments accept no.3, I do not agree with that.  * No. 6; this fungus (*Beauveria sp.)* is not throughout by molecular characterization. It just normal identification by microscope. |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | Reference weren’t written according to author guideline, please refer <https://www.journalarja.com/index.php/ARJA/about/submissions>. Citations in reference section are intermixed with other articles. | Ok, I already change according to ARJA formatted |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | Need to correct some of the above mentioned sentences. | ok |
| Optional/General comments | **Mention the grouping details of a, ab, bc, cd, de and e in figure 3 in results section.**  **Do refer the author guidelines.** |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |