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| Journal Name: | [**Journal of Advances in Microbiology**](https://journaljamb.com/index.php/JAMB) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_JAMB\_135156** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Correlation of Mutations in the hblA Gene with Bacillus cereus Disease Isolated from Loungwila, a Traditional Fermented Beverages in Republic of Congo** |
| Type of the Article |  |

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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 mutants studied in this manuscript are of important for scientific purpose. This study may lead to outcome which could point out or screen pathogenic *Bacillus cereus* from all other strains of Bacillus or bacteria as such. As the local drink Loungwila, is very popular in the Republic of Congo, it would be immensely helpful for the common people in that country if scientific research could lead to a screening process to detect pathogenic and nonpathogenic (in other words, contaminated and non-contaminated) preparation of the drink. | Noted |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | The title is not at all suitable. Name of the disease can’t be bacillus cereus disease. “Study of mutations in the hblA Gene from *Bacillus cereus* isolated from Loungwila”  Or  “Genetic and structural diversity of the HblA protein in *B. cereus* strains from a local drink of Congo” | Revision effected |
| **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.** | Abstract should be rewritten. It is not clear from the abstract that the correlation which is the main target of this study, is between a strain and a mutation? Maybe authors are trying to see something else and written something else in the abstract. | Corrected |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | The target and the interpretation or conclusion is not at all correct scientifically. But the experiments done are scientifically correct and is of importance in the field of food  microbiology. | Ok |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | Yes |  |

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| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | No. The manuscript should be re-written. |  |
| **Optional/General** comments | 1. Introduction-   End of first para, “The three-dimensional… *E. coli.-* do not carry much sense.   1. Figure 1- legend should be exact match with the figure nomenclature, such as “HblA (Wild Type)” in figure legend should be “Hb1Awt” as in the alignment of the sequences. 2. Paragraph after figure 1- The first sentence do not carry any sense. It should be rewritten. 3. Conclusion- Very much biased interpretation of the result. There has been no effort to establish the correlation between pathogenicity and the mutations. Change in structure cannot ensure change from non pathogenic to pathogenic variety. The strains were not isolated from infected patients or infected stool etc. 4. The target and the results should be reconsidered. |  |

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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 detail)* |  |