



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	Advances in Research
Manuscript Number:	2014_AIR_12639
Title of the Manuscript:	Environmental parameters and <i>Biomphalaria</i> snail distribution along River Kochi, West Nile region, Uganda
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:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>The spelling mistakes must be revised through the whole text; Paired words in the text by mistake should be corrected before the final approval for publication of this paper. Exemples: line 2. Read <i>Biomphalaria</i> snail but not <i>Biomphalariasnail</i>; line 20. Read <i>B. stanleyi</i> and but not <i>B. stanleyiand</i>; ... and so on ... see line 19, line 97...</p> <p>I strongly suggest to the author to mention the different species of aquatic plants found during the sampling. These can also help understanding the distribution of snails in the studied sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The many spelling mistakes have been corrected and paired words separated - Plant type fed upon and/or anchored on by snails can definitely explain snail distribution; however, the scope of the study did not include collection and subsequent identification of water plants on which snails anchored. Money and time factors for the Masters program did not allow us investigate many variables. We will consider this in our further works.
Minor REVISION comments	<p>Line 134. Figure 3 is not really important; but the relationships of each variable versus the number of snails Are considered important. Thus, I suggest to delete this figure and to mention only the correlation coefficient of water flow velocity versus water pH. Line 140. Replace the word "predict" by the word "assess".</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Figure 3 has been deleted and only correlation coefficient mentioned. - The word "predict" has been replaced by the word "assess"
Optional/General comments	<p><u>2. Material and method</u> <u>2.2. Estimating snail abundance and water parameters</u> Were the sampled snails returned to their habitat after the morphological identification? If no, can the authors explain what is the impact of the method on the distribution trend of snails in both the two sites collection?</p> <p>Did the authors take care of the presence of <i>Afrogyrus</i> and <i>Gyraululus</i> during the sampling? How could the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In estimating snail abundance, we returned the sampled snails after screening to the river but at least 500meters downstream. The rationale was to avoid collecting the same snails again and again in subsequent sampling sessions. It was also to make it a little difficult for the snails to swim upstream to the sampling site against water current but avoid upsetting their population in the river. - Our identifications of snails were based on the morphological descriptions and pictures by the



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	<p>authors differentiate very juvenile <i>Biomphalaria</i> sp. from <i>Gyraulus</i> sp. and <i>Afrogyrus</i> sp. considering that these species are morphologically very similar?</p> <p>What is the long-term impact of the methyl orange dye sprinkled in the stream on the snail's life?</p> <p>Line 111. Could the authors add or indicate the altitude or the altitude range of each collection site on the x-axis of this figure? Exemple: Koboko (>1000 m); Yumbe (700 m-1000 m); Moyo (<700 m).</p>	<p>Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory; a Field Guide to African Freshwater Snails, (2nd edn.) East African species. No phylogenetic studies for finer differentiation were done. It is hence possible for some overlaps to have occurred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no effect of the small quantities of methyl orange in the water. It gets diluted and the colour thins out hardly 50 meters from the point of application. - Altitude range for collection sites added on the x-axis of figure 2.
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