



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1:

Journal Name:	<u>American Journal of Experimental Agriculture</u>
Manuscript Number:	2013_AJEA_5654
Title of the Manuscript:	Changes in rhizosphere concentration of mineral elements as affected by differences in root uptake and plant growth of five cowpea genotypes grown in mixed culture and at different densities with sorghum
Type of the Article	Research Paper

General guideline for Peer Review process is available in this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)

- This form has total 7 parts. Kindly note that you should use all the parts of this review form.



SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 2: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, corrects the manuscript and highlights that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	Nitrogen is the most important mineral for plant growth, but the authors didn't analyze soils and plant nitrogen contents like other minerals? The authors inoculated Cowpea plant with rhizobia but they didn't assess neither nodulation nor nitrogen fixation? The nodules could affect greatly the P availability in the rhizosphere and also its uptake by Cowpea plant	Agreed. This item was considered and data has been published elsewhere in another peer reviewed Journal
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Page 10, L216: The results comment is not true for Cu and Zn since there is no significant differences between bulk soil and rhizosphere of Cowpea L218: the results are presented in Table 2 and not in Table 1 L226: The effect of plant density on rhizosphere pH is presented in table 3 and not Table 2. Page 12, L268–270: The statement is valid only for P and Ca and not valid for Cu since the differences are not significant. L272– L274: statement is not true for Omondaw genotype since the differences, table 5, are not significant between Sanzie and Omondaw.	Ok, these items have been reviewed and corrected as per reviewers suggestions



SDI Review Form 1.6

	Remark: The authors try to explain the variation in plant growth by the difference in plant mineral uptake. But, since Nitrogen content, one of the most limiting element for plant growth, was not assessed this explanation is not so adequate Page 15, L340: replace “root-induced increase” by “root-induced decrease” L351: Cu must be discarded since there is no significant difference between cowpea genotypes for this element (see table 3). Table3 title: replace “macro-elements” with “mineral elements” since micro-elements were assessed also.	
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	Throughout all the manuscript, authors must change `` monoculture `` by “monocropping”: since monoculture means cropping the same specie for many years.	The item has been reviewed and corrected as per reviewers suggestions