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A

PART 1:

Journal Name:	**American Journal of Experimental Agriculture**
Manuscript Number:	**2013 AJEA 4361**
Title of the Manuscript:	**STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF FRESH SHOOT BIOMASS OF TITHONIA DIVERSIFOLIA ON THE GERMINATION, GROWTH AND YIELD OF COWPEA (*VIGNA UNGUICULATA* L.)**
Type of the Article	**Case Study**

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.
  "this form has a total of 7 (seven) parts.

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PART 2: 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	The article meets the objectives and provides important agro-ecological information. However, the results section is somewhat confusing. I suggest not to repeat the information included in the tables in the text, but to indicate the characteristics of plants, color, vigor, among other features that complement such information.	The results section has been corrected as pointed out. I have realized the earlier mistakes and made appropriate corrections. Thanks for your constructive criticism.
Minor REVISION comments	It is important to remember that scientific names should be written in italics. I recommend to add the specific names and families of the plants in addition to indicating their common names.	Corrections made.
Optional/General comments	Such studies provide alternative tools for improving soil and crop conditions without increasing costs to small-scale production. It is interesting to evaluate other aspects such as the effect of *T. diversifolia* on the damage caused by pests.	It is true that *T. diversifolia* had been reported to control Termites on the field but this is not the focus of the present study.

B

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PART 2: 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		
Minor REVISION comments	There are minor comments, the rate of Tithonia diversifolia should indicate the contents of NPK given to the plant at different treatments. What are horticultural pots, clarify	The NPK content of Tithonia diversifolia had been reported in literature. Please see the concluding part of discussion [18] Horticultural pots are meant to grow plants in controlled environment as an alternative to field planting of crops
Optional/General comments		

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PART 2: Review Comments

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Compulsory REVISION comments	Ln 32 – Southern Europe Ln 33 – Southern USA Ln 37 – 2 million tonnes Ln 49 – Include the geographical location of the study site; include the volume of soil used to fill the pots Ln 76 – At what level of significance? I think the level of significance or probability should be indicated in the text. Ln 78 – Were the differences in heights significant or not and at what level? Ln 134 – 'production' should be removed from yield in that context. Ln 135 – Chromoleana odorata should be italicised Ln 140 – Tithonia diversifolia should be italicised Line 145 – there should be comma after 'plant population'	
Minor REVISION comments	Ln 52 – *T. diversifolia* Ln 53 – mortar and pestle OR pestle and mortar? Lns 55 and 56 – *T. diversifolia* Ln 58 – Cowpea or cowpea? What variety of cowpea was sown and at what sowing depth? Ln 59 – July or july? Ln 61 – What was the rationale for sowing 10 seeds per pot and later thin it to 1 seedling per pot? Won't it amount to seed wastage?	

Optional/General comments	Ln 31- Cowpea is an important food crop/grain legume Ln 50 – Is the degraded soil lateritic in nature or is it a sub-soil? Ln 66 – Data collected were analysed using ANOVA and means separated using DMRT. Did you subject your data or analyse it? Lns 70 – 73: Don't you think it should be 'percentage emergence and not emergence percentage'?	Corrected to grain legume. Data collected were statistically analysed. 'Emergence percentage' is more appropriate.

4

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Compulsory REVISION comments	1. **Soil characteristics should be added in materials and methods paragraph.** 2. **It would be interested to provide information on chemical characteristics of *Tithonia diversifolia* that inhibit growth in the discussion part.**	The soil characteristics has been added as requested This information is intended for further study where the chemical composition of *Tithonia diversifolia* is being analyzed. However, additional explanation had been provided to support this inhibitory claim in the discussion.
	3. **(75 line) it would be corrected 20012 2012.**	Line 75- 20012 corrected to 2012
Minor REVISION comments		

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Optional/General comments		