



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2014_AJEA_12150
Title of the Manuscript:	Studies on the relative abundance and diversity of insect species on nine accessions of pepper (<i>Capsicum</i> spp.) grown under field conditions
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:

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



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(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)</i>
Compulsory REVISION comments	Language and grammar should be checked by native speaker. There are numerous spelling and formatting errors.	Language and Grammar reviewed.
Minor REVISION comments	Sampling method used in the study should be added to the abstract. The year of the study should be added to the abstract. Keywords should be rearranged, as "abundance, diversity, pepper, genotypes, pest, species, open field, Ghana". The first paragraph of introduction (Line 12-18) should be removed from the text or should be revised. In introduction part, what is the number and frequency of insecticide applications against pests of pepper in Ghana? And the results obtained should be emphasized that contribution to the economy, should be added. Because of the objectives of the study is to reduce the number of pesticides and to improve product quality. In Line 37, Family of whitefly should be corrected as "Aleyrodidae" In material and methods, Line 64, the first sentences should be removed from the text or explained clearly, because given with reference number 18, but has not yet unpublished. The "Result" part should be revised. Table and figures should be presented as per their appearance in the text. In results and discussion section, tables and figures should come after explanation. The identification of specimens should be done not only insect	Random sampling technique was used to collect insect count data on the accessions of pepper. Year of study was already added to the abstract. Arrangement effected. Line 12-18 removed. Addition made in Line 38-48 Spelling mistake. Changes effected. The paper in context is accepted and published in Journal of Agric. Sc.



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	voucher specimens and literature, but also must be made by experts. How was your laboratory condition? How to distinguish the immature stages of pest? Did not find any butterfly larvae mentioned in introduction part? “culture method of obtaining” can be added to the material and method. For some pest, e.g. whitefly, aphid how many leaves did you select for counting, because for these species 10 plants and all leaves is difficult for counting. For example three leaves from each plant were observed..etc.. Did you have any observations about the nymph stage of pest damaging to the plant parts? Table 1 and Figure 1 should be revised. Repetitions should be avoided. Why was the <i>Cheilomenes lunata</i> included in the correlation as well as abundance? Should be explained? In all Tables, instead of “name of insects” should be corrected as “scientific name of insects”. Accessions should be replaced with genotypes. Units of characters should be added to the tables and in the text. e.g. No of insect should be included as individuals/10 plants, etc.. Statistical units missing should be added.	Changes effected where appropriate. Expert advice was sought from taxonomist at African Regional Post Graduate Program in Insect Science (ARPPIS) at University of Ghana to confirm the identified insects. The work was basically done in the field. The immature stages were not included in the data collection. Unfortunately culture method was not used in the data collection. Likewise caterpillars were not found too. For whiteflies and aphids, the same 10 plants were observed from the base of the stem to the crown of all leaves. We did thorough study of all the leaves. No such observations were recorded. Table 1 shows list of insect pests and predators observed at various phonological stages of nine genotypes of pepper grown in the field while figure 1 shows comparative abundance and the inter-relationship between 3 insect species. Camponotus sp., Aphis craccivora and Cheilomenes lunata. So there were no repetitions. <i>Cheilomenes lunata</i> is of biological importance and therefore we want to establish it role in the control of aphids so that it can be packaged in an IPM strategy for pepper. Changes effected. Changes effected. Units of character added where appropriate
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	<i>P</i> values should be italicized and capitalized, besides, expressed to 2 digits whether or not it is significant ($P = .01$ or $P = .05$) Sub-heading of results should be compatible with discussion parts. Comments in the discussion part inadequate. The abundance and diversity of pests in three different plant phenological periods with climate data should be discussed in the text. About half of the total number of insects is aphid, <i>Aphis craccivora</i>, how accurate counting numbers of insect living with colony due to living individual? In conclusion part; A general agreement on the results should be given. Furthermore, according to the results of the study should be emphasized in future research to be done in conclusion part. References should follow according to the instruction, should be checked again. e.g. reference number 36 should be corrected as "Yasarakinci N Hincal P." and reference number 28 should be given only the first six authors followed by et.al. In the text, citations should be indicated by only the reference number in brackets. The punctuation signals are not compatible with instruction, should be revised. Only recommended SI units should be used.	Statistical units already added. P value capitalised and italicised. No more applicable following changes effected. Climatic data has not been captured daily in this study but the average prevailing weather condition in the experimental area is added in the Materials and Study subheading Study area. Since we were just doing estimates, this is one of the best method of collecting count data on aphids. In future other methods will be used in collecting aphids such as water traps. Area of further work added in the conclusion part. References checked and necessary corrections effected. Changes effected where appropriate. Changes effected where appropriate. Done.
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<u>Optional/General</u> comments	Title can be revised as “Relative abundance and diversity of insect species in nine pepper genotypes in field conditions of Ghana”. Manuscript should be checked again according to the author guideline. If suggestions and corrections should be taken into consideration, it can be published.	Changes effected. Manuscript thoroughly checked. Suggestions and corrections effected. Please publish.
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