



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2014_AJEA_11035
Title of the Manuscript:	Evolution of physicochemical parameters during storage of the inflorescence sap deriving from four Ivorian coconut (Cocos nucifera L.) varieties

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
1. The paper is slightly improved by still the points raised in the first review (given below) are not completely addressed. These need to be addressed before it is finally accepted. 2. The introduction should project the gap in knowledge and requirement for such a study – this comment is not properly addressed. Give knowledge gap not merely stating that no such work is done in specific country. Why such information is required? Justify 3. Sap was sampled twice in a day. What are the variations between harvests? Though it is not your objective, data for both periods provide more information with regards to the nutritional value vs harvest time. This aspect needs a mention 10. The correlation matrix has several auto-correlated parameters PI take help a statistician to resolve the problem 4. No data on different dates and times of sap collection. The comment is for data on sap quality across dates and time of sap collection	1. OK 2. We think the introduction is now improved according to the request concerning the justification of this work. 3. OK. Now we indicated: The sap was harvested twice a day, at 7 AM and 5 PM [12] and later, the saps provided by the trees of each coconut variety from both harvests were mixed and a sample of 1.5 L was used for analyses. In our comments after the first revision, we already stated that objective was to assess the same type of sap from all the varieties studied. So the mixture was achieved for each of the four varieties. On the other hand, the harvest of 7 AM is done after 14 hours of sap flow (5 PM to 7 AM) and that of 5 PM is done after 10 hours of sap flow (7 AM to 5 PM). So, the difference between harvests is 4 hours; and our results showed clearly that 4 h do not induce any change into the sap. 10. In fact, this is a descriptive study of the coconut sap. We considered 10 parameters to describe this raw material although the correlation test shows several close correlations between some of them ($r > 0.9$). We didn't perform Principal Components Analysis or Discriminant Factors Analysis whose tests would have requested deletion of some of the auto-correlated parameters. For us, it's necessary for the readers to see all the correlations between all the parameters assessed. 4. As the comment n° 3, the work concerned samples (here: mixture of the sap) of sap from the varieties assessed. We indicated that the tree days of sap collection were repetitions for the work. So, for us it was not important to show any data on different dates of sap collection.