

Editor's Comments:

When I review manuscript AJEA 6415, I considered it could be accepted after certain corrections. One important flaw was the lack of statistical letters in the tables, in order to say which values were statistically different. For example, authors say that the tithonia treatment had higher concentrations of N and Mg, but it cannot be seen in the tables because analysis of variance (ANOVA) was not done (or at least not reported). If statistical analysis is not performed, the comparisons among treatments are a "question of faith".

Author Feedback:

I do not think there is any flow due to lack of letters in the tables. The previous reviewers would easily determine whether the treatment means are significant or not, you simply get the difference between one mean and the other to be compared with. Any difference that is greater than the LSD is significant and any that is less than the LSD is non-significant, this is basic statistics that can be obtained from any statistics text book. You recently accepted my paper which is already published online (Nyambati and Opala, '**An Agronomic and Economic Evaluation of Integrated use of *Calliandra calothyrsus* and Maize Stover with Urea in Western Kenya**' *American Journal of Experimental Agriculture* 4(1): 80-89, 2014 whose tables have no said letters but we provided SED for comparison of treatment means. Why the inconsistencies? From my earlier response I indicated that table 2 cannot have LSD of the so-called letters because it is just presenting the properties of the materials to be used for the experiment. At that point no experiment has been done. This is similar to Table 3 in the above paper and Table 2 in another paper published by your Journal '**Use of Organic Inputs in Management of Alfisols and Ultisols for Sustainable Maize Production in Western Kenya**' By J. Achieng¹, G. Ouma^{2*} and G. Odhiambo³ *American Journal of Experimental Agriculture* 3(4): 884-895, 2013 . I respect the opinion of your reviewer but I am afraid he/she is wrong or not familiar with this type of work. I will however put the letters in the Tables, but complement them with LSD, for ease of those whose statistical powers are limited. However, I will not put any letters in Table 2 because it would be grossly unscientific. I attach the above cited papers and three others that I have published in highly reputable and respected journals in which I presented my data in exactly the same way that the reviewer claims is flawed to justify my argument. In addition, you could refer to the following papers in which similar presentation was made.

1. **Opala, P.A.** J. R. Okalebo & C. Othieno (2012): Comparison of effects of phosphorus sources on soil acidity, available phosphorus and maize yields at two sites in western Kenya, *Archives of Agronomy and Soil Science*, DOI:10.1080/03650340.2011.627681.
2. **Opala, P.A.** (2011). Comparative effects of lime and organic materials on selected soil chemical properties and nutrient uptake by maize in an acid soil. *Archives of Applied Science Research*, 3 (1):96-107.

3. **Opala, P.A.** (2011). Management of organic inputs in East Africa: A review of current knowledge and future challenges. *Archives of Applied Science Research*, 3 (1): 65-76.
4. **Opala, P.A.**, C.O. Othieno, J.R. Okalebo and P. Kisinyo (2010). Effects of combining organic materials with inorganic phosphorus sources on maize yield and financial benefits in western Kenya. *Experimental Agriculture*. 46:23-34.
5. **Opala, P.A.**, J.R. Okalebo, C.O. Othieno and P. Kisinyo (2010). Effect of organic and inorganic phosphorus sources on maize yields in acid soils in western Kenya. *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems*. 86:317–329.
6. **Opala, P.A.**, B.J. Jama, C.O. Othieno and J.R. Okalebo (2007). Effect of phosphate fertilizer application methods and nitrogen on maize yields in western Kenya. An agronomic and economic evaluation. *Experimental Agriculture*. 43: 477-487.
7. **Opala, P.A.** J. R. Okalebo & C. Othieno (2012). Effects of organic and inorganic materials on soil acidity and phosphorus availability in a soil incubation study. *ISRN Agronomy* Volume 2012, doi:10.542/2012/597216.