



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEA_20078
Title of the Manuscript:	Growth and Yield Components of Sweet Potato (<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> L.) and their Interrelationships with Root Yield
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 (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	2 – 3. Modify title to “Growth and Yield Components of Sweetpotato (<i>Ipomoea batatas</i> L.) and their relationships with Root Yield ABSTRACT Results whereas number of roots per plant was positively correlated to the average root weight and root yield. Keywords: Sweetpotato 1. INTRODUCTION Line 14: The crop originated from Latin America..... Line 16: The crop has great potential..... Line 16 to 18: The crop has great potential to alleviate hunger, malnutrition and poverty in developing countries, since it is a source of food, feed and processed products [2]. Line 22: The increase in production, however, is attributable to increase in area Line 25: of sweetpotato in Nigeria. Line 26 and 27: importance, pile, and poor marketing mechanism and utilization as well as lack of improved desirable varieties have militated against its	This is noted and effected in the text. Noted and correction effected. Noted and correction effected. Noted and correction effected. This was not observed/ nor clear. ‘Impotence’ and not importance as observed.



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	consumption in the country. Line 27 to 30: Developing appropriate genetic and/or crop management strategies towards increasing the yield of any crop require the knowledge of important traits that influence it, and the relationships among those traits. This is because increasing total yield is easier by improving its components [4]. Line 32: Understanding the nature improvement [5]. Out of place, please delete. Line 36: Is it potato or sweetpotato? Please check with reference 6 in the reference section. Line 36 and 37: Other authors have also reported findings on relationships among important yield components and yield [7, 8, 9, 10]. Line 38: Relationships that existed among important sweetpotato processing traits were also reported [11]. Out of place. Please delete. 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS 2.1 study Areas Line 52 and 53: to study the relationships between some growth, yield components and root yield of sweetpotato. Please delete. Not necessary. 2.2. Soil Sampling and Analysis Line 58: These were bulked and composite samples used to determine their physical and chemical properties (Table 1).	Other observations were noted and corrections effected in the text. These were noted and corrections were effected in the text. This is part of the justification of the research intent. Counter observation was suggested by another reviewer (Ade) who suggested (7 – 10). This is noted and deleted from the text. This is noted and deleted from the text. This is effected in the text.
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	2.3 Treatments and Experimental Design Line 67: I suggest you use genotypes instead of varieties since 15 of them appear to be either breeding lines or advance lines. 2.4 Agronomic Practices Line 76: Faulty stands were replaced after 7 days of planting 2.5 Data collection and Analysis Line 86: per plant, average root weight and root yield. Line 103: p_{1r13}, p_{1r23}, p_{1r34}, p_{1r45}, p_{2r23}, p_{2r24}, p_{2r25}, p_{3r25}, p_{3r34}, p_{3r35} and p_{4r45} are the indirect effects. Line 104: r₁₂ r₅₆ are the correlation coefficients. 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION 3.1 Simple Correlation Line 122 to 125: The author cited (15) as similar report to affirm the current study which in fact the cited findings did not include number of leaf, and so the use of the word similar may be misleading. Line 129 and 130: This indicates the interdependency amongst these characters that may influence yield. Please recast this sentence. Table 3: Column 2 heading add “s” to Leave and delete the “r” Line 221 to 223: This also indicated that the number of roots per plant is important in deciding the root yield of sweetpotato [15]. 281 4. CONCLUSION 282	This is noted and correction effected in the text. This is effected in the text. These observations were not different from what is written in the manuscript. The contents of the manuscripts were not different from what was suggested, because a positive correlation was cited for number of roots and the average root weight, and hence the word similar may not be misleading. This is noted and re-casted in the text. This is noted. ‘r’ was deleted from the table, while ‘s’ was added accordingly. This noted and effected.
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	Line 283 and 284: delete the whole sentence. Line 285 to 292: Partitioning the correlation coefficients into direct and indirect effects, average root weight had the highest contribution to root yield, while the highest indirect effect to root yield came from the number of roots per plant via the average root weight. This indicates that average root weight is the significant contributor to root yield. Breeders must therefore, pay attention to average root yield when breeding for storage root yield in sweetpotato. REFERENCES Non-conformity of reference. Some journal names were written in full others not. In some cases, full colon were used between volume number and page numbers whereas in others it's a comma. In some cases, date for the articles did not follow the author list whereas in others it did. Journal format must be adhere to. Examples of them are listed below. 1. www.sweetpotatoknowledge.org (2012). International Potato Center (CIP) web site +++ Please state data information was retrieved. 5. Solankey SS, Singh PK, Singh RK. Genetic diversity and interrelationship of qualitative and quantitative traits in sweet potato. International Journal of Vegetable Science.+++date of article not stated. 11 Afuape SO, Nwankwo IIM, Omodamiro RM, Echendu TNC, Toure A. (2014). Studies on 327 some important consumer and processing traits for breeding sweetpotato for varied 328 end-uses. American Journal of Experimental Agriculture. 2014; 4(1): 114-124.	Not justified. These were noted and corrections were effected in the manuscript as highlighted. These were noted and corrected in the text as highlighted. OK and noted. Date of the article is now stated as highlighted in the text. This is noted and effected in the text as highlighted.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	1. I gathered from the manuscript that the problem statement is on yield but not yield and utilization as found in the introduction. 2. As per the authors own literature review [5], increasing yield is easier by improving its components and so it's difficult appreciating why the author included the growth parameters. 3. The author should be consisted in using the word sweetpotato and sweet potato. I recommend the former. 4. The justification of the work is ill-defined and should be recast. 5. The implication(s) of the study on agronomic performance and breeding did not come up clear as per the objectives of the study. 6. No mention is made on the soil analysis of the study anywhere in the discussion and the conclusion. 7. Grammatical and typographical errors identified are indicated in the compulsory comments above.	The research objective was focused on yield improvement only. Growth components are also important in contributing to yield. This is because much of the photosynthetic activities were most evident in the growth phase which consequently translates to dry matter partitioning and yield. This was noted and corrected throughout the text. This was fully justified The outcome fully justifies the objectives. This is noted and effected in section 2.2 of the manuscript. These were noted and corrected in the manuscript.