



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEA_20255
Title of the Manuscript:	Assessment of Salinity Tolerance and Analysis of SSR Markers Linked With Saltol QTL in Sri Lankan Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>) Genotypes
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
In their case the 5 markers have grouped their rice accessions according to their level of tolerance to salinity in comparison with the physiological measurements. They can only state this but not draw a conclusion that these 5 markers can always be used to group rice accessions according to their tolerance.	We agree with this comment. So we included the terms “from the tested varieties” (mentioned below) in the conclusion of the abstract to make sure that these 5 markers can be applied only for the tested varieties. Final conclusion does not show such meaning. Conclusion: Information derived on morphological traits under salinity stress and the polymorphic SSR marker patterns obtained from tolerant and susceptible varieties near <i>Saltol</i> region would be useful in selecting parental lines from the tested varieties for rice breeding and gene mapping programs designed for salt tolerance.