

from: Shamim Gul, Ms <xxx@yyy.zzz>  
to: Managing Editor  
date: Mon, Nov 5, 2012 at 10:46 PM  
subject: RE: 2012 IJPSS 2334 : Invitation to Review Manuscript for International Journal of Plant & Soil Science

Dear ZZZ,

Thank you very much for considering me to review manuscript entitled "Determination of Mineralization Rate of Organic Materials Using Carbon Dioxide Evolution as an Index". This study demonstrates the effect of two types of organic matter; Kola pod husk and pacesetter grade B on emission of CO<sub>2</sub> from soil. It is an interesting study and the data are also not beyond expected results. There are some corrections/modifications needed in this manuscript before its acceptance for publication in International Journal of Plant and Soil Science.

### **Abstract**

1) Line # 16. As shown in figure 1, this statement is not correct and needs to be either re-written or deleted.

Line # 21. The symbol > is wrong and should be replaced with < ( $P < 0.05$ ) if results for cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emission from soil are significantly different between treatments.

2) Line # 22. It is not mentioned that whether cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> production from soil amended with KPH and PGB is significantly different than control.

3) Add information about the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emission of different treatments over entire incubation period. The reader will want to know which treatment caused the highest emission of CO<sub>2</sub> over 16 weeks of incubation as compared to the control or type of organic matter added in soil.

4) The nature of control is not mentioned in abstract (e.g. soil without any organic matter amended or soil with some type of organic matter amended).

### **Introduction**

1) Line # 30. Explain what CEC stands for

Line # 50-52. This sentence is not complete. It would be good to merge this sentence with the next sentence to make theme of this sentence clear.

2) line # 58. The word CO<sub>2</sub>, the numeric 0 should be replaced with alphabet O

### **Materials and methods**

1) As KPH and PGB abbreviation with terminology is used in the section of abstract, only the abbreviations need to be used in the rest of the manuscript. The information about PGB in the section of materials and methods should be given in the section of abstract.

- 2) Line # 67, 82. The word CO<sub>2</sub>, the numeric 0 should be replaced with alphabet O
- 3) Line # 89-96. The references for methods used in this section need to be mentioned. The reader will want to know the protocols of the measurements mentioned in this manuscript.

**Results and discussion**

- 1) Line # 103. Reference is needed here to provide proof that on what standard bases, the values in Table 1 for K, Mg, Ca, total N, and C/N ratio are considered low and the concentration of P, Mn and Fe are adequate.
- 2) Line # 116. From figure 1, the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> does not increase with course of time, therefore, this sentence needs to be rewritten or removed.
- 3) Line # 120. Use abbreviation for Pacesetter grad B
- 4) Line # 144-145. Since the environmental conditions were same for all variables, this sentence needs to be deleted.
- 5) Line # 147-156. It is entirely speculative since you did not measure the microbial activity in your soil samples

**Other revisions**

- 1) Figure should be added in manuscript that demonstrates the cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emission of different treatments (control, KPH, PGB) over entire incubation period. The reader will want to see which organic matter type caused greater emission of CO<sub>2</sub> from soil.
- 2) Sequence of treatments (KPH, PGB) should be same throughout the manuscript. In some places KPH came first and in other places PGB was described first.

Table 2. Use abbreviations (KPH, PGB) other than terminology.

Thank you very much

With best regards

Shamim Gul

**Reviewer Details:**

Name:	<b>Shamim Gul</b>
Department, University & Country	<b>Canada</b>

**Note: Modification was done in this email ONLY to hide the identity.**