

-----Original Message-----

From: XXX YYY<xxx@yyy.zzz>

Sent: Sun, Feb 23, 2014 at 2:25 PM

To: Managing Editor

Subject: Re: Request for final decision for manuscript number 2013\_IJPSS\_8206

Please find attached my final decision report on the above manuscript, along with a manuscript copy with tracked changes on it. Although it is an interesting work, as you can see it requires extensive revision and considerable improvements especially to Discussion to meet publication standards.

**Attached Part:**

### **Final Decision Report**

**Germination and growth of barley seedlings in sand cultures amended with macro- and nano- particles of cobalt (II, III) oxide and cobaltous chloride**

**Ref. 2013\_IJPSS\_8206**

### **General remarks**

This is an interesting work that can produce important conclusions if properly revised as it suffers from many weaknesses.

The authors must be careful on correct use of macro- (hyphen plus space) and nano-cobalt (hyphen without space) both in the title and the text throughout. Or remove all hyphens. The same is true for many other situations.

**A major weakness is the lack of uniformity and incorrect use of punctuation marks, spaces between words, abbreviations etc.** For example, write (II,III) either with space in-between (preferable) or without throughout. Be careful on the use of comma (,), incorrect use of which may change meaning or confuse.

Use either Co or cobalt throughout, not mixed.

Use a uniform way of indenting. Avoid using spaces or the Tab key to make indents; they are the wrong way.

Use uniform spacing before and after  $\pm$  both in the text and the tables. The same for -.

Lack of uniformity in chemical compounds is confusing. Moreover, is cobalt chloride always hexahydrated or not? Both are used in the text.

Check carefully the correct spelling of sodium hypochlorite.

Use the word Table without :, e.g. (Table 1).

Use abbreviations on first mentioning only

## Title

The title is not correct: seedlings do not germinate, they are already germinated seeds. Only seeds germinate. Provisional titles could be: **"Seed germination and seedlings growth of barley in sand cultures amended with macro- and nano-particles of cobalt (II, III) oxide and cobaltous chloride"** or to **"Effects of macro- and nano-particles of cobalt on germination and growth of barley"**. However, these titles do not reflect the remediation experiment, which is a considerable part of the manuscript.

Under this context, other provisional titles could depend on the original title amended to: **"Effects of macro- and nano-cobalt particles on barley seedlings and remediation of CoCl<sub>2</sub> toxicity using NaOCl"** or to: **"Effects of macro- and nano-cobalt particles on barley seedlings and remediation of cobalt chloride toxicity using sodium hypochlorite"** or to: **"Effects of macro- and nano-cobalt particles on barley seedlings and remediation using NaOCl"**. It is highly expected that the authors decide the correct title.

## Introduction

In the Introduction the last paragraph must precede the second one so as the "aim" paragraph to be the last one. **The aims must be carefully set and they are expected to be answered in the Discussion, where conclusions are made depending on the Result findings.** This is the philosophy of an article. The incurred change in citations numbering has also been done.

## Discussion

In the Discussion there are extensive repetitions of Results (highlighted and commented on the manuscript). Of course Results may be recalled in the

Discussion but shortly and only to support conclusions, in combination with bibliography. Since this work "is aimed at studying the differential effects of macro- and nano-particles of cobalt oxide", these differential effects were expected to be presented in the Discussion. Thus **Discussion requires extensive and thorough revision so as to emerge conclusions reached through observations.**

Inaccuracy of description: if NaOCl is absent from a solution we cannot speak for NaOCl concentration.

Bibliography in Discussion is restricted to only 4 references, and 3 of them are cited in the first paragraph which is a general one. Only one reference is used supportively to deduce a conclusion [13]. Actually, Discussion has no bibliography. How can conclusions be justified?

### **References**

Check correctness of all references cited, spell them uniformly and according to the journal's instructions . Why do you use DOI in some papers and not in all?

### **Language**

English language is poor. Numerous improvements but not all have been made in the attached manuscript. It is highly recommended that the manuscript is critically read by an English speaking native.

### **Final decision**

Accepted, provided all changes and suggestions detailed above and on the attached manuscript are addressed satisfactorily. If authors disagree with some or all suggestions they have to provide persuading reasoning. If they agree, the only they have to do is to accept changes. But further on they have to revise carefully Discussion. The authors are also expected to pay special attention to uniformity, even to the least detail including spaces. Any failure will cause change of decision.

### **Editor's Details:**

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