**MS\_ EEA-2023-0149**

Dear Dr. Chia,  
   
Experts in the field have carefully reviewed your manuscript,  
submitted to Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata:  
  
Reference Number: EEA-2023-0149  
Title: Effects of frass from larvae of black soldier fly (Hermetia illucens) and yellow mealworm (Tenebrio molitor) on growth and insect resistance in field mustard (Brassica rapa): differences between insect species and frass treatments  
   
The Reviewers' comments are available to you following the signature, below. As you will see, the reviewers are positive about your manuscript I have therefore decided that your manuscript is acceptable, pending a minor revision.  
  
I will add a few comments to those of the reviewers:  
Line 44, use of the word “protective” here creates ambiguity Protective might imply to some readers that plants were protected from herbivores under this treatment, which was not the case  
Line 65, move the definition of PGPR to line 61, after first mention?  I think this would make the paragraph flow better  
Line 122, delete comma  
Lines 142-143, it would be extremely helpful to know something about the soil (e.g., pH, organic content, N, P, K levels, soil type) used in the experiments  
Line 202, :”after” instead of “since”; insert “and” after the comma  
Line 211, delete comma  
Figure 2, in the third and fourth panels, the letters designating the Tukey results appear to be in error – shouldn’t BSFF be accompanied by a “b” and both “NoFrass” and “MWF” have “a”’s?  
Line 382, were patterns similar in second experiment  
Line 416, were patterns similar in the two experiments?  
Lines 514-515 – again, any information about the base soil used in the experiments would be helpful – also, 2 g frass per kg of soil does not seem to be an inordinate amount to me – how feasible is it that the frass led to soil compaction or waterlogging?  
Line 525, when what was “introduced to the frass”? Unclear  
Line 533, italicize species name  
  
  
  
  
In order to revise your manuscript, log on to the journal's ScholarOne Manuscripts site:  
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We expect to hear from you within 1 month, otherwise we will presume you have withdrawn the manuscript from consideration by Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata.  
  
  
Yours sincerely,  
  
Dr. Michael J. Stout  
Associate Editor EEA  
  
   
Reviewer: 1  
  
Comments to the Author  
GENERAL ASPECTS:  
- Both the Introduction and the Discussion manifest an excellent domain of the research topic.  
- A very interesting, novel and original document. Congratulations for the great work done.  
  
KEYWORDS:  
- Reduce the number of keywords by half. Now it is excessive.  
  
ABSTRACT:  
- Very well explained and complete.  
  
INTRODUCTION:  
- L61: why are only bacteria considered and not also fungi?  
- L64-73: Rewriting information. It's confusing right now.  
- L74-75: order cites conologically.  
- L94-96: add updated production data according to FAOSTAT.  
- L98-99: repeated citation.  
  
MATERIALS AND METHODS:  
- L139, 149, 150, 170, 171, 179, 180, 186, 187, 188 y 244 : The full scientific name has already been written above. Reduce.  
- L142-143: Is the chemical analysis of the soil known? The nutritional one would be very interesting and could be added to the paper as supplementary material.  
  
RESULTS:  
- L332, 366, 384, 393, 406, 411, 418, 427  and inside the figures: The full scientific name has already been written above. Reduce.  
- Throughout the section, it is not considered necessary to put so much information from the statistical analysis in the text. However, it is very positive to put information of mean data between different treatments, which help the fluent understanding of the text and the study.  
- L468-469: spacing problem.  
  
DISCUSSION:  
- L538-539: The full scientific name has already been written above. Reduce.  
- L526-527: scientific names in italics.  
  
  
  
  
Reviewer: 2  
  
Comments to the Author  
Despite the amount of work that has been done already in the case of insect frass, the overall idea is unique and the methodological approach very interesting. The ms can be accepted for publication, but there are some parts that need to be revised  
97-8 and elsewhere. Use authorities in full in the first time that a scientific name appears on the ms.  
109. There are additional data gaps that are not addressed by Wantulla et al. (2022), which can be illustrated here.  
133. Expand this general scope with more text.  
Not clear how many replicates and subreplicates were used, clarify.  
524. This is the standard procedure of the authorization of frass, regardless of the overall effects of the thermal treatments. This can be further clarified.  
531-3. Why- perhaps due to their increased conductance?  
552. Merge with the next paragraph.  
607. No need to have a separate conclusion section, use this text as the closing paragraph in the discussion.