**To:** The Editor-in-Chief, **Date:** 28th July 2023

*Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*

**Subject:** Manuscript Submission

Dear Professor Beukeboom, dear Leo

We are pleased to submit our manuscript titled “Effects of frass from black soldier fly (Hermetia illucens) larvae and yellow mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) on growth and resistance to insect herbivores of field mustard (*Brassica rapa*): differences between insect species and frass treatments” for consideration of publication in *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*. We believe that our research aligns well with the scope and focus of the journal.

Previous studies in the literature have amended soil with insect residual streams, including frass, with promising effects on plant growth promotion. However, there is a limited understanding of the potential of frass to enhance plant development and resistance to insect herbivory. This manuscript builds on the prior studies to understand the potential of utilizing raw, incubated, or composted frass derived from black soldier fly larvae and yellow mealworm larvae on the growth of *B. rapa* and the resistance of these plants to root-feeding larvae of *Delia radicum* and shoot-feeding larvae of *Plutella xylostella*.

The significance of our research lies in its contribution to developing a zero-waste food production system by closing the nutrient cycle in insect farming. Our manuscript shows that utilising frass from the larvae of black soldier fly and yellow mealworm as organic fertilizers holds promise for sustainable agriculture. Additionally, our findings provide insights into using frass as a pest management strategy, reducing the reliance on chemical pesticides. We believe that the results of our study will be of great interest to the readership of Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata. This manuscript is not under consideration for publication in any other journal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shaphan Chia, Joop van Loon and Marcel Dicke