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|  | **PROPAGATION OF ORNAMENTAL PLANTS**  Editorial Office, University of Forestry, 10 Kliment Ohridski blvd.,  Sofia 1756, Bulgaria, Fax: (++ 359 2) 862 28 30, e-mail: [ivilievltu@yahoo.com](mailto:ivilievltu@yahoo.com),  [www.journal-pop.org](http://www.journal-pop.org/) |

##### **CHECKLIST FOR REVIEWERS**

**Title of the manuscript:** … **THIDIAZURON-INDUCED SOMATIC EMBRYOGENESIS AND SHOOT REGENERATION IN COTYLEDON EXPLANTS OF *MELIA VOLKENSII* GURKE.**

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**Author (s):** .......................................................................

No of the manuscript: ...... Eliud S. Mulanda\*, Mark O. Adero, Daniel K. Wepukhulu, Nelson O. Amugune, Elijah Akunda and Jenesio I. Kinyamario..

Deadline for the receiving of your review: 30 days after the receiving of the manuscript

**Please consider main point A and B. Please DO NOT CONTINUE TO REVIEW the manuscript if:**

**- the answer to point A.1 is YES**

**- the answer to point B is LOW.**

**A. Relevance of the paper.**

**1. *Previous publication of the material***

□ No

□x Yes. What and where…part of the paper has very strong similarity with part of the paper entitled “High-Frequency Regeneration of the Drought-Tolerant Tree Melia volkensii Gurke Using Low-Cost Agrochemical Thidiazuron”

Eliud Sagwa Mulanda, Mark Ochieng Adero, Nelson Onzere Amugune,

Elijah Akunda, and Jenesio I. Kinyamariowith……published in Biotechnology Research International

Volume 2012, Article ID 818472, 5 pages doi:10.1155/2012/818472. Effectively the explant preparation etc is the same, but the medium used is half MS compared to B5. I guess the remaining part of the paper is adequate to go forward………………………………………………………...

### B. Scientific and practical importance of the data

□ High

□X Adequate **Please see below for preliminary comments on this paper**

□ Low

### C. Scientific quality

***1. Are the data in this manuscript new?***

□ Yes

□ No. Comments:.…………………………………………………………………………

***2. Is the manuscript clearly written and well-organized?***

□ Yes

□ No. Comments:.………………...........................................................

***3. Are the Abstract and the Key words adequate?***

□ Yes

□ No. Suggestions: ..........................................................

***4. Does the Introduction state the present knowledge and aim of the research?***

□ Yes

□ No. Comments: .....................................................................

***5. Materials, methods, and study design***

□Adequate

□Improvement needed. Suggestions:………………………………………………

□Inadequate. Comments: ...........................................!

***6. Results and Discussion***

□Properly drawn with regard to methods and data

□ Should be adjusted – Suggestions: ………………………………………………….

□ Insufficiently supported – Comments: ................................................

***7. Are the tables , figures titles, and legends presented well and necessary?***

□ Yes

□ Improvement needed. Suggestions:……………………………………………………

□ No. Comments: ........................................................................

***8. Data and statistical treatment***

□ Adequate

□ Improvement needed. Comments:……………………………………………………

□ Inadequate. Comments: .....................................................

***9. Have all relevant literature been cited***

□ Yes

□ No. Suggestions: ....................................................................

**D. Recommendations (after corrections)**

□ The paper should be published as it is now, or with minor editorial changes

□ The paper could be published after minor revision, and need not be re-reviewed

□X The paper could be accepted after major revision according to the comments

□ Rejected

#### E. If adjustments or revision is recommended

□ The writer is allowed to contact me

□ I want to be anonymous

□ I am not willing to review this paper again

□X I agree to review the manuscript again after the revision

Please add further comments.

1 Crossover of some material with article specified above, thus not all information can be considered as new. The authors need to be more specific about this and simply write in their materials and methods that the plant material used and the methods deployed to disinfest it are similar to what they published in a previous paper. I do accept that the medium in one half MS is different to B5 used in the published paper.

2 Lines 92-94 are “*The pH of the medium was adjusted to 5.80 + 0.1 using Exstick® digital pH meter. Fifty ml aliquots of the medium were dispensed into honey jars.”* pH meters do not adjust pH, they record the specific value; The size of the honey jars is not specified. Lines 103-106 “The cultures were incubated in an improvised growth chamber illuminated at 50 cm overhead distance by two 5-feet Phillips® cool daylight fluorescent tubes, each emitting a light intensity of 3.54 log lux at tube level as measured by a Phillip Harris light level sensometer.” What is an improvised growth chamber? They need to be precise. Second they are using imperial and SI units (cm and feet) they must be consistent and use SI units. What is log lux light intensity? It tells nothing. Light energy level is required.

3. Statistics used are incorrect. They cannot compare different levels of a treatment using anova and Tukeys for mean separation. Therefore their results and conclusions will be irrelevant. You will see from their published paper that they used Tukeys for mean separation and it was accepted. I’m not accepting it. They should know the correct analysis to use.

4. So the paper is insufficiently honed at this stage for me to correct it in depth. It needs to be sent back to the authors for an in depth revision. If accepted by the journal, I’ll assess it in depth then.