

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58172

Title: Screening of Symbiotic Enterobacteriaceae Species from the Gut of *Macrotermes subhyalinus* and *Macrotermes bellicosus* Termites

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- The study explores an interesting and relevant microbiological topic
- The methodology is clearly described and easy to follow
- Standard microbiological and biochemical identification methods were used
- Results are presented in an organized manner with useful tables
- The discussion is supported by relevant scientific literature
- The findings have ecological and biotechnological importance
- The conclusions are consistent with the study objectives

Weakness of the study:

- Ethical approval or permit for biological sample collection is not clearly mentioned
- Molecular methods could strengthen bacterial identification
- The sample size and sampling strategy require better justification
- Some grammatical and formatting errors need correction
- Statistical analysis could be explained in greater detail
- The study lacks functional validation of identified bacterial species
- Some tables and figure captions need minor formatting improvement

Reviewers Comments:

The manuscript presents a useful investigation of Enterobacteriaceae associated with the gut microbiota of two termite species and provides valuable information on their diversity and possible biotechnological significance. The study is scientifically relevant, and the methodology is generally appropriate for the objectives. The results are clearly presented and supported by suitable discussion with recent references. The manuscript is well structured and easy to understand, although several grammatical, typographical, and formatting issues should be corrected to improve readability. The authors should clearly mention whether ethical approval or permission for termite collection and laboratory work was obtained, even if formal ethical clearance was not required. The identification of bacterial isolates relies only on phenotypic and biochemical methods, and molecular confirmation would strengthen the findings. The limitations regarding culture dependent methods and lack of functional validation should also be discussed more clearly. Overall, the manuscript is informative and suitable for publication after minor revision.

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Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

The manuscript appears to be an original piece of research, and no obvious indication of previous publication or duplicate submission was identified during this review. No apparent signs of plagiarism were observed in the submitted version. However, the journal should perform a standard plagiarism similarity check before final acceptance to ensure compliance with publication ethics.