

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.:** IJAR-58899

**Title:** ÉVALUATION DU CONFORT BIOCLIMATIQUE DES PASSAGERS 3 DES MINIBUS URBAINS (TOKPA-TOKPA) À COTONOU (BÉNIN).

### Recommendation:

Accept as it is .....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after **major revision** .....

Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

| Rating         | Excel. | Good | Fair | Poor |
|----------------|--------|------|------|------|
| Originality    |        | Good |      |      |
| Techn. Quality |        | Good |      |      |
| Clarity        |        | Good |      |      |
| Significance   |        | Good |      |      |

**Reviewer's ID:** JPR-115 **Dr Thirunahari Ugandhar**

### Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript addresses an important and relevant topic concerning thermal comfort and heat stress among passengers and workers using informal urban transport in Cotonou. The field-based approach combining microclimatic measurements, GPS data, and thermal perception surveys is a strength.

However, several aspects require clarification and improvement before publication.

1. Methodology: Provide detailed information on the thermo-hygrometers, their accuracy, calibration, and measurement uncertainty.
2. Sampling: Clarify the selection criteria for the 90 trips and 540 passengers/45 workers, including sample representativeness and demographic characteristics.
3. Humidex: The formula and calculation of vapour pressure should be presented accurately, with an appropriate scientific reference.
4.  $\Delta T$  classification: Clearly identify the literature source supporting the proposed indicative classification, since it is not an internationally standardized classification.
5. Thermal comfort assessment: Consider incorporating additional recognized thermal indices such as WBGT or UTCI, where data availability permits, to strengthen the assessment of heat stress.
6. Statistical analysis: The manuscript should report the statistical tests used, significance levels, confidence intervals, and effect sizes where appropriate.
7. Results: The results section appears incomplete in the submitted text. The authors should provide the complete analysis for all three corridors and clearly compare congestion versus free-flow conditions.

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8. Figures and tables: Improve figure quality, captions, units, and statistical annotations. Ensure that all tables and figures are adequately discussed in the text.
9. Discussion: Strengthen the comparison with previous studies on thermal comfort in tropical public transport and informal transportation systems.
10. Conclusion: Clearly distinguish the major findings, practical implications, study limitations, and recommendations for improving passenger and worker thermal comfort.

Overall recommendation: Major Revision. The study has good potential and addresses a significant urban-climate and public-health issue, but methodological clarification, statistical strengthening, and completion of the results/discussion are necessary.