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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-50554**.

Date: March 7, 2025.

Title: ISOLATION OF TRICHODERMA SPP. IN RURAL AREAS OF FIVE DISTRICTS IN ITAPÁŖA, PARAGUAY

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

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

Reviewer Name: Dr Lakhdar Guerine

Date: March 7, 2025.

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

The submitted article explores the isolation of Trichoderma spp. in rural areas of five districts in Itapúa, Paraguay. The study highlights the significance of these fungi as biological control agents against phytopathogenic fungi of agricultural importance. This research presents a promising avenue for farmers across different districts in Paraguay, offering potential benefits for sustainable agricultural practices.

Detailed Reviewer's Report

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Abstract

their effectiveness as biological control agents against phytopathogenic fungi of significant agricultural importance. However, Paraguay lacks commercially available products based on native isolates. In this context, the present study focused on obtaining native Trichoderma spp. strains from the districts of Trinidad, Mayor Julio Dionisio Otaño, Fram, Carmen del Paraná, and Natalio, in the Itapúa region. The results suggest the possible presence of Trichoderma spp. in all five analyzed districts, as the isolated samples initially exhibited a greenish-white coloration, which later evolved into an olive-green hue, a macroscopic characteristic distinctive of this fungus. Further identification and characterization of native Trichoderma spp. strains will not only enhance disease control efficiency but also reduce dependence on agrochemicals.

Line 29: According to Navarro (2024), rice is considered a suitable substrate for microorganism reproduction.
Line 37: The traps were buried at an approximate depth of 20 cm
Line 39:..... stakes and GPS georeferencing were used.
Line 81:..., facilitating the development of environmentally friendly biological products.
Line 64: Possible presence of Trichoderma spp. in different districts of Itapúa
Line 65: Although molecular identification of the collected and isolated

Commented [LG1]: Their

Commented [LG2]: will not only enhance disease control efficiency but also reduce dependence on agrochemicals.

Commented [LG3]: According to Navarro (2024), rice is considered a suitable substrate for microorganism reproduction.

Commented [LG4]: Why 20 cm depth? Justify

Commented [LG5]: It would be wise to present the coordinates in a table format.

Commented [LG6]: It is preferable to include a map showing the location of the districts for better orientation.

Commented [LG7]: Rewrite: facilitates

Commented [LG8]: Can you explain why Trichoderma spp. was not present in some traps?

Commented [LG9]: Why was molecular identification not performed? Are you confident in your findings based on previous studies conducted in regions with similar agroecological conditions?