

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54416

Title: SELECTION OF PLANTS CONSUMED BY CHIMPANZEES AND HUMANS IN AN AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM ON THE EASTERN PERIPHERY OF TAÏ NATIONAL PARK, SOUTHWESTERN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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			Fair	
Significance			Fair	

Reviewer Name:

Dr Thirunahari Ugandhar

Date: 20th Oct 2025

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Reviewer Comments

Overall Evaluation

The manuscript presents an important and relevant study exploring the overlap in plant species consumed by chimpanzees and humans in the agroforestry systems around Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire. The topic is ecologically significant as it addresses both biodiversity conservation and human–wildlife conflict mitigation through sustainable land use practices. The integration of ecological observation with socio-ethnobotanical data provides a valuable interdisciplinary approach.

However, the manuscript would benefit from **improved organization, clarity of expression, deeper data interpretation, and more recent contextual references**. Several sections require further detail to enhance the scientific rigor and readability of the paper.

1. Title and Abstract

Strengths:

- The title is clear and informative, reflecting the scope of the study.
- The abstract summarizes the main objectives, methodology, and findings concisely.

Suggestions:

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- Improve the English grammar and flow in the abstract for better readability (e.g., “The methodology consisted first of conducting bibliographic research...”).
- Quantitative results (such as the percentage of species overlap and the total number of species observed) could be expressed more clearly in numerical form.
- The conclusion of the abstract should briefly highlight the **implication** of the findings for conflict mitigation or agroforestry management.

2. Introduction

Strengths:

- Provides good background information on biodiversity loss, agroforestry, and human–wildlife conflict.
- The justification for studying chimpanzee diets in relation to humans is scientifically sound.

Suggestions:

- The introduction should be better structured from global → national → local context.
- Add more recent references (post-2020) on **chimpanzee feeding ecology**, **human–chimpanzee conflict**, and **agroforestry-based conservation**.
- Clarify the hypothesis or expected outcomes: e.g., “We expected a high overlap of fruit species consumed by both humans and chimpanzees due to similar food preferences.”

3. Methodology

Strengths:

- Combines three complementary approaches: literature review, community surveys, and field observations.
- The site description of Tai National Park is appropriate and geographically well-defined.

Suggestions:

- Provide a **map with scale, north arrow, and coordinates** for clarity (Figures 1 & 2 need better captions and resolution).
- Include **sampling duration**, **dates of fieldwork**, and **seasonality**, as these strongly affect plant availability and feeding patterns.
- The number of respondents (n = 20) should be justified — explain how this sample size was determined.
- Provide details about the **questionnaire or interview method** used during the population survey (structured, semi-structured, or open-ended).

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- The **data analysis** section should briefly explain how the Kruskal–Wallis test was used and how abundance indices were calculated.
- Clarify whether **statistical significance** was tested for human vs. chimpanzee plant consumption overlap.

4. Results

Strengths:

- The results are presented logically, beginning with the general plant species list and then narrowing to species shared by both humans and chimpanzees.
- Use of tables to summarize data is appropriate.

Suggestions:

- Table I is incomplete — please ensure the full list of species and corresponding data are presented in a consistent format (scientific names italicized, families alphabetically ordered).
- Provide a **summary table** showing:
 - Number of plant species consumed by chimpanzees only, by humans only, and by both.
 - Distribution of plant parts consumed (fruits, leaves, stems, etc.).
- Include figures or charts (bar or pie charts) to visually represent consumption proportions.
- Discuss whether the overlap in consumed species increases the potential for crop raiding or whether certain plants reduce conflict (i.e., conflict-sensitive vs. conflict-reducing species).

5. Discussion

- The discussion should interpret ecological and socio-economic implications of overlapping diets.
- Compare findings with similar studies in other African forests (e.g., Kibale, Budongo, Gombe).
- Address whether shared consumption is due to **availability, preference, or human introduction** of species.
- Reflect on how agroforestry interventions can be optimized to balance human food security and chimpanzee conservation.

6. Conclusion

Suggestions:

- Summarize the key findings quantitatively.
- Highlight policy or management recommendations for mitigating human–chimpanzee conflict.
- Mention the importance of **community engagement and agroecological planning**.

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7. Language and Formatting

Suggestions:

- The English language requires moderate editing for clarity, grammar, and syntax.
 - Ensure consistent formatting of scientific names (*italicized*), units, and references.
 - Check that all references cited (e.g., IUCN, Gone Bi 2007, N'guessan 2012) are included in a properly formatted **reference list** at the end.
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Final Recommendation

Decision: Minor Revision

The study is relevant and original in its regional context and contributes valuable information to the understanding of human–chimpanzee interactions and shared food resources in agroforestry systems. However, before publication, the manuscript requires **substantial revision** to improve scientific clarity, statistical rigor, and language presentation.