



REVIEWER’S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-54483**

Title: “*Morphological Characterization of Alternaria Brassicicola Strains Combined with Cabbage Cultivation in Côte d’Ivoire*”

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. ABDUL HASEEB MIR

Date: 25-10-2025

Reviewer’s Comment

The paper “*Morphological Characterization of Alternaria Brassicicola Strains Combined with Cabbage Cultivation in Côte d’Ivoire*” is a commendable and well-organized piece of scientific research. It addresses a crucial agricultural issue—the identification and morphological diversity of *A. brassicicola*, a major pathogen affecting cabbage production in Côte d’Ivoire. The study reflects strong experimental design and careful observation, offering valuable baseline information for future plant pathology work in tropical agricultural systems. The language is clear and the structure consistent with standard scientific conventions, though a few refinements in presentation and title precision would significantly strengthen its impact and professional polish.

Detailed Review

This paper demonstrates clear scientific reasoning and relevance. It begins by situating cabbage within global and national agricultural contexts—highlighting its nutritional importance and economic value, especially for smallholder farmers in Côte d’Ivoire. The background is informative yet concise, effectively motivating the need for research on fungal pathogens like *Alternaria brassicicola*. The

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introduction successfully draws attention to the economic losses and ecological conditions that promote fungal proliferation, making the study's focus timely and significant.

The methodology is one of the paper's strengths. The authors employ a well-structured experimental setup using five isolated fungal strains cultured on PDA medium, with systematic measurement of morphological features and statistical comparisons of growth and sporulation. The description of culturing conditions, inoculum preparation, and data collection is detailed and replicable—an essential hallmark of good lab-based plant pathology research. The use of ANOVA and non-parametric tests demonstrates an appropriate understanding of statistical analysis. However, including a clearer explanation for why specific analyses (e.g., Kruskal-Wallis vs. Fisher's LSD) were chosen would improve transparency for readers less familiar with fungal morphology studies.

The results and discussion sections are coherent, with effective integration of quantitative and qualitative data. Visuals and tables are helpful, though figure captions could provide slightly more context—for instance, specifying scale bars in microscopic observations. The identification of variability in mycelial growth and sporulation between strains (notably the vigor of strain A5) is well presented. The link made between morphological divergence and possible genetic variation is insightful, acknowledging both biological and environmental contributors to intraspecific diversity. The discussion adeptly connects these findings to broader literature, such as the references to Attrassi et al. (2005) and Blacutt et al. (2018), thereby positioning the work within the global research continuum.

Stylistically, the writing is careful and readable, maintaining academic professionalism without unnecessary complexity. Nonetheless, a few stylistic or formatting choices could be improved—particularly the consistency in scientific notation (spacing for “ $\times 10^6$ ”), uniform use of genus and species italicization, and references alignment with journal guidelines. The conclusion succinctly captures the study's contribution, emphasizing the physiological and epidemiological relevance of morphological diversity in *A. brassicicola*. However, it could be slightly expanded to address how these findings might guide breeding programs, inoculum management, or regional fungal surveillance systems.

One point worth noting is the title. Although scientifically accurate, it feels slightly rigid and could be reframed to engage a wider academic audience. A more effective alternative might be:

“Morphological Variability of Alternaria brassicicola Strains Associated with Cabbage in Côte d'Ivoire: Implications for Disease Epidemiology and Crop Protection.”

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This revised version maintains scientific precision while adding contextual insight into why the study matters and what it contributes to future agricultural and pathology research.

Recommendations and Suggested Revisions

- Refine the title to better communicate both the morphological scope and applied relevance of the study.
 - Add a brief rationale for the choice of statistical tests and describe any limitations in strain selection.
 - Slightly elaborate on potential applications of findings in agriculture or plant disease management.
 - Ensure uniform formatting of Latin species names, units, and reference entries in line with journal style.
 - Consider augmenting figure captions with scale indicators and interpreting notes for clarity.
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Final Recommendation

Accept with minor revisions.