

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55043

Title: MARINE POLLUTION BY HYDROCARBONS AND ITS IMPACT ON MICROFAUNA: THE CASE OF BENTHIC FORAMINIFERA IN THE CONGOLESE ATLANTIC BASIN

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. Hari Prashad Joshi

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Recommendation: Major Revision

This study offers a valuable and timely investigation into the impacts of hydrocarbon pollution on benthic foraminifera within the Congolese Atlantic Basin, combining geochemical and micropaleontological analyses to document significant heavy metal contamination and consequent morphological deformities. The research is well-structured and its findings are relevant for both regional monitoring and broader marine ecology. However, the manuscript requires major revisions before publication. Key weaknesses include unclear descriptions of the geographical and geological context, with Figures 1 and 2 lacking essential detail and explanation. The presentation of results needs improved labeling and integration with the text, while the methodology section requires clearer justification for the sampling strategy and staining techniques. Furthermore, the discussion should be deepened to explore the ecological implications more thoroughly, and the manuscript contains numerous typographical and formatting errors that necessitate thorough editing. Based on its strong foundational findings, I recommend Accept after Major Revision, pending careful addressing of these issues to enhance the clarity, rigor, and impact of this otherwise promising contribution.