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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-55524

Title: Identification of elite local accessions of Roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) through the evaluation of morpho-phenological characters

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

This manuscript presents a comprehensive morpho-phenological evaluation of 29 roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) accessions in Côte d'Ivoire, successfully identifying elite genotypes for breeding. The study is well-designed, employing robust statistical analyses (PCA, k-means clustering, correlation) to assess variability across four developmental stages. The identification of accessions HSKO 037, HSFE 031, HSBK 004, and Bangolo as consistently high performers is a valuable outcome. However, minor revisions are required before acceptance. Please ensure consistent formatting of tables and figures (e.g., correct duplicate "Table IV" label, define all abbreviations in the correlation matrix). Clarify the statistical notation (e.g., use "Kruskal-Wallis" consistently). The discussion should more explicitly highlight the novelty of identifying stage-specific elite accessions. Finally, streamline the conclusions to focus on the key findings and their application, and verify the consistency of reference formatting throughout. These adjustments will enhance the manuscript's clarity and readiness for publication.