



**SDI Review Form 1.6**

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Annual Research &amp; Review in Biology</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_ARRB_49407
Title of the Manuscript:	ROLE OF PREVALENT WEEDS AND CULTIVATED CROPS IN THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MAIZE LETHAL NECROSIS DISEASE IN MAJOR MAIZE GROWING AGROECOLOGICAL ZONES OF UGANDA
Type of the Article	Review Article

**General guideline for Peer Review process:**

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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**PART 1: Review Comments**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>Compulsory</b> REVISION comments		
<b>Minor</b> REVISION comments	<p>The manuscript presented relevant information about the role of weeds and cultivated crops as alternative hosts for the viruses that cause Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease. I suggest to summarize the information of tables 5,6,7, 8 and 9 in only 3 tables. The reason is because the information about distribution of weeds and cultivated crops in the different agroecological zones were already demonstrated in tables 3 and 4. Therefore, one table should show the distribution of weeds/cultivated crops along the seasons, other table should show the distribution of viruses along the agroecological zones and other table could summarize the detection of viruses per weed and cultivated crop in order to improve the understanding of the manuscript. Other suggestion or corrections are pointed out in the manuscript.</p>	<p>The suggestions have been addressed by merging the tables into the appropriate table including both seasonal and agro ecological information. The seasonal information table could not be repeated since it would be presentation of the same data twice. The data of tables 5, 6 and 7 were combined into one table, table 5. While data from tables 8 and 9 were combined into one table, table 6. The changes made have been highlighted yellow in the reviewed.</p> <p>Please explain what is A and B. This has been addressed on page 2 line 83-84 Where "A" is the first rainy season (March-July) and "B" is the second rainy season (September- December).</p> <p>Is there previous work demonstrating the existence of Ugandan strain? There has not been work done on characterizing the Ugandan strain of MLN viruses. However the author did this as part of his PhD study and has submitted his work for publication and is currently under review.</p> <p>It is sugarcane a cultivated crop? Indeed this is a cultivated crop in the context of this study and the correction has been made in the tables 5 on page 5 and table 2 page 6 where it has been transferred to the correct table.</p> <p>Please put a sentence summarizing the results of incidence of MCMV and SCMV (total detected) in weeds/cultivated crops (total of plants). This has been addressed under page 17 line 364 to line 365.</p> <p>Why did you not test for MDMV, since in the introduction it was listed as related to MLN? The author agrees with the reviewer that although MDMV was mentioned as one of the MLN causing viruses, this study focused on MCMV and SCMV since previous surveys conducted and published revealed that these were the only two MLN causing viruses present in Uganda. The concern is addressed on page 4 line 134-135.</p>
<b>Optional/General</b> comments		

**PART 2:**

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	