

Editorial comments:

The manuscript requires further revisions.

I had gone through the manuscript, and the revisions carried out in the earlier submissions in response to the reviewer's comments. One of the comments raised in the preliminary review was that the work was already published as the conference proceedings of the International Society for Mushroom Science. Although the editorial policy of the journal is that a study submitted should not be published wholly or partly before, conference presentation with significant changes could be considered for publication if proper citation of the conference paper is provided. Therefore, the present manuscript satisfies these criteria, to a certain extent, for publication. Nevertheless, there are certain verbatim repeats (marked in blue font colour) which should be modified. The manuscript can be further improved by subjecting the data to two-way ANOVA assessing the influence of the fungal species, time and their interaction on degradation of crude oil. In addition to this, I have certain concerns.

1. The title should be adequately modified as suggested in the annotated manuscript.
2. Do not include the words in the title in key words.
3. Provide the experimental design, number of replicates and other details marked on the annotated manuscript in the methods.
4. Appropriate statistical analysis used should be mentioned in the method.
5. Don't abbreviate fungal names in tables and figures.

Provide chromatogram images with a higher resolution. Mark only the relevant peaks as there are a lot of overlapping numbers making reading difficult.

I had marked other comments directly on the manuscript.

Author's feedback:

- Suggestions have been effected. The text marked blue by the editor have been reconstructed and marked red.
- The chromatograms were scanned as JPEG. The peaks show the non-degraded hydrocarbons
- A two way ANOVA was used for data analysis.

The manuscript was presented at a conference but it has been significantly updated and permission letter obtained for publication in a peer reviewed journal