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Journal Name:	British Journal of Applied Science & Technology
Manuscript Number:	Ms_BJAST_29682
Title of the Manuscript:	EFFECTS OF FEEDING LACTATING DAIRY COWS WITH MARULA [<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i> (L.)] SEED CAKE AS A PROTEIN SUPPLEMENT ON MILK YIELD AND COMPOSITION
Type of the Article	Original Research 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.

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(<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 <i>(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)</i>
Compulsory REVISION comments	TITLE: EFFECTS OF FEEDING MARULA [Sclerocarya birrea (L.)] SEED CAKE ON MILK YIELD AND COMPOSITION FOR LACTATING DAIRY COWS ABSTRACT: "Study design"- Nine multiparous Friesian dairy cows in mid-lactation were assigned to a 3 x 3 Latin square design (three replicate). "Place and Duration of Study" - Add the total time of the experiment duration in day. "Methodology" - The treatments were as follows: Control diet (CD) - containing 100% CP from SBM; Marula seed meal (MSM) - diet containing 100% crude protein (CP) from Marula seed cake (MSC); and soya bean meal (SBM) + Marula seed cake (SBM+MSC) - diet containing 50% CP from MSC and 50% from SBM. Milking was done twice daily and the milk yield. Milk samples were stored at -18 °C pending chemical analysis. "Keywords" - Milk constituents, Dry matter intake, Dairy cattle, Weight gain. MATERIAL AND METHODS: 2.2 Experimental procedure 2.2.1 Experimental diets Adjust in "TABLE 1 (Line 63)" the values of the parameters: dry matter and moisture, the sum is equal to 100%; organic matter and ash, the sum is equal to 100%. Remove of the parameters: nitrogen and crude fibre, because it has no practical importance. 2.2.3 Experimental design In line 78, the authors wanted to say: The experiment lasted 90 days, divided into three periods of 30 days, of which the first 21 days of each period Were used for adaptation of animals to the experimental diets and 7 days for data collection? In lines 81 and 82 add information about concentrate supplementation: it	



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	was in relation to body weight? fixed amount? MATERIAL AND METHODS: 2.4 Statistical analysis - It recommends the addition of the effect of the latin squares and interaction between latin squares and treatment in the model because three simultaneous squares were performed. Eg $Y_{ijk} = \mu + B_i + Y_j + T_k + QI + QI * Tk$ eijkl, where: QI = effect latin squares and QI * Tk = interaction of the effect with the Latin square × treatment. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: 3.1 Body weight - Insert a comment about the possible effect on the quality of protein on weight gain of the animals, because the authors only presented the results and there is no discussion. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: Remove discussion - remove discussion of nitrogen and remain only with crude protein. The work was submitted to the responsible committee, according to the authors.	There was no significant difference on the body weight of the animals. The authors did not determine the amino acid profile of the ingredients and diets, thus this was recommended for further study. Suggested editorial corrections have been effected
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	ABSTRACT: “Conclusion” - substitute “rations” for “diets”. INTRODUCTION: In line 43 substitute “protein supplement” for “protein source”, because it is the main source of protein and no protein supplementation. MATERIAL AND METHODS: 2.1 Site description – add in line 49 the total time of the experiment duration in day. MATERIAL AND METHODS: 2.2 Experimental procedure 2.2.1 Experimental diets In line 67 substitute “protein supplement” for “protein source”, because it is the main source of protein and no protein supplementation. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION: Remove the unnecessary sentences in line 136 and 186 example: “The average milk yield obtained is presented in Table 5.” substitute for “Substituting soya bean meal with Marula seed cake had no significant (P = .05) effect on the morning and afternoon milk yield according with the table 5”. Add in table 4. The “a” in result of the DMI, indicating that there was no statistical difference between treatments. CONCLUSION In line 309 substitute “protein supplement” for “protein source”, because it is the main source of protein and no protein supplementation.	Suggestions addressed
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	The article presents relevant for production in ruminants region and scientific community. There was a good theoretical basis in the discussion of the work.	Thank you.