

Editorial Comments:

1. Not fully agree with reviewer that there is no link between crude oil degradation and presence of seed. But it is the presentation by the author that makes following this article extremely difficult.
2. I completely agree with the reviewer. Even in the revised version significant work is needed. Flow of the article is hard to follow. The way the results have been described is truly archaic. Crude oil biodegradation count method (2.3 section) too difficult to understand. Author needs to describe lot more about it. How was the initial crude oil weight measured in 3gm of oil collected? Why in Figure-1 sample A which is the control showed so much growth of microorganism? What is the significance of pH change? Is it just due to the fact that the seeds are present? Why it is relevant?
3. The author has addressed most of reviewers comment. I can understand the lack of scope of using sophisticated techniques. But the author needs to focus more on careful management of the result and discussion section. The p-value turned out to be 0.068 (>0.05). In order for sample B & C to be different the P-value has to be <0.05 if the author is trying to establish the difference at 95% confidence level. So from that sense the conclusion is not clear to me.

Authors' Feedback:

For the crude oil biodegradation method, the mixture of oil and diethyl ether was decanted into the beaker of known weight. The residue, i.e. the soil, was placed in a funnel made from filter paper and placed on the beaker in order to get as much oil from it possible. It was done in this way because the sample was so small. The same procedure was carried out for the other readings made in the subsequent days. Just that the reading for the first day was a constant, i.e. weight of crude oil (initial).

From our correction, sample B is now the control, since we are studying the effect of *Moringa Oleifera* treatment on the contaminated soil. There was growth of microbes in sample A alright, but the growth phase was elongated for sample C. That showed adequate proliferation of the microbes of sample C.

The micro-organisms thrive in basic mediums, i.e. in environments with higher pH values. The *Moringa Oleifera* provides such an environment.

We also objected to the p-value we arrived at. But that was what we arrived at. We had no other option than to report it. We might consider some other much more elucidating comparative methods. Thank you.