



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<u>Journal of Experimental Agriculture International</u>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_35768
Title of the Manuscript:	Stimulants and Plugging Index in Hevea brasiliensis: A preliminary investigation of plausible effect of some stimulants on plugging index.
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. 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>)



SDI Review Form 1.6

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)
Compulsory REVISION comments	In rubber production, the application of stimulant is a routine practice to enhance latex yield by delaying latex vessel plugging. In this paper, the authors compared the effects of four stimulants, including two new ones (Mortex 25 and 50) on the plugging index in a rubber clone (NIG805). The results will contribute to appraising the application prospect of relevant stimulants. My major concern is the small number (9) of trees used for each treatment due to large tree to tree variations often observed within a same rubber clone. <u>M&M</u> More infor is needed for the stimulants, e.g. source of company, major composition and dose use per tree. <u>R&D</u> l104. Contradictory to the authors' claim, the trees stimulated with mortex 25 were not significantly different from all four other treatments because they share a same letter (a or b). l112-115. Fig. 2 was not mentioned in the text.	Thank you for the observations. Yes there is always some tree to tree variations in the <i>Hevea</i> clones, but this was not considered during the study as one cannot tell these genetic variations by mere looking at the trees. The nine trees were picked at random. That is the reason why the particular clone used for the experiment was named. A different clone may give a different result. As for the number of trees used, nine trees per treatment is not too small as the number of treatments were five making a total of forty five trees. If the work was a comparison of only the mortex 25 and 50, more trees may have been used. <u>M&M</u> It is manufactured and distributed by Dikilang & Diedarkan oleh, Malaysia. Major composition is fatty acids, organic acids and organic nutrients. It is applied 1g to 10-25cm of tapping cut. <u>R&D</u> Line 104 is rephrased. Thank you. Fig 2 is now reffered to in line 115, Thank you.
Minor REVISION comments		
Optional/General comments		