



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_43086
Title of the Manuscript:	EVALUATION OF CULTURING METHODS FOR <i>Scutellonema bradys</i> IN YAMS
New title of the Manuscript:	EVALUATION OF CULTURING METHODS FOR THE YAM NEMATODE <i>Scutellonema bradys</i>
Type of Article:	Original Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
Introduction/Data Analysis and results part <i>Although the authors gave the biology, it was not clear if the reproduction factor received by the referenced article was comparable to the current research findings. I find it strange that the life cycle of the nematodes is only 26 days. Thus under favourable conditions, the nematodes could easily achieve a very high reproduction factor. If in a few days the nematodes attained by Bridge, J. could reach upto 6,000 nematodes per gram of tuber tissues in a few days, then, it's unclear why the authors only achieved a reproduction factor of only 2 folds. One of the issues could have been lack of proper determination of the nematodes extracted from the samples e.g. per gram of tissues etc. As such it could have been easier for the authors to determine if the reproduction factors were better than the previously described methods by Bridge, J.</i> Minor reviews <i>Still there are numerous elements of typo errors in the manuscript. I have tried to add comments on the documents and seems the authors did not focus thoroughly on correcting the mistakes.</i>	This is a very good observation. The research of John bridge was from data of stored tubers obtained from natural field infection so it is not clear what the initial inoculum was and how long the tubers were infected for. His work did not inoculate a known number of nematodes nor did it relate initial inoculum to final nematode populations so in fact one cannot compare J. Bridge's work to ours in this aspect. You would observe that we did not refer to this work in our discussion for comparisons. Rather the work can be compared to Kwoseh and referred to in lines 287-291 with recommendations for improvement The probable reason for the low RF is that there may have been some inoculum mortality that we are unable to account for or the fact that the tubers were actually inoculated rather than naturally infected. The main source of inoculum of the nematode is from planting infected tubers. The nematode migrate from the planted sett to the new tubers and continue multiplying from then till tubers are harvested 6-9 months after. Multiplication continues in tubers during storage hence the possibility of getting very high populations after these several cycles. Also for this nematode higher initial inoculum will generally produce higher RF, the initial inoculum in our study was 50, others studies use at least 10 times more. The whole idea of our study is to identify a viable method for producing nematode inoculum with minimum resources. You may read the work of John Bridge in the link below https://www.cabdirect.org/cabdirect/abstract/19730807991 Comment A1: biocoenosis means interacting organisms living together in a habitat Comment A2and A5: the nematode data presented are not per gram or per tuber, but total numbers extracted from tubers, roots and media (soil or MS medium) as it applied to each method as stated in the methodology (line 137-139, 155-156, 205-209) The spacing issues were from tracking and have now been corrected. Other comments have been attended to.