August 23, 2022

Editorial Department of agricultural and forest entomology

Re: Cover letter

Dear Editor of agricultural and forest entomology

I am submitting a manuscript for consideration for publication in Crop protection. The manuscript is entitled “Evaluating combined effects of pesticide and crop nutrition (with N, P, K and Si) on weevil damage in East African Highland Bananas”.

It has not been published elsewhere and it has not been submitted simultaneously for publication elsewhere.

We tested the effect of varying levels of inorganic fertilisers (nitrogen, potassium and silicon) combined with insecticide on weevil damage in East African highland bananas in two experiments monitored for 4 and 3 growth cycles. We analysed the data using a generalised linear mixed model with negative binomial distribution and found that potassium and silicon fertiliser are associated with lower damage whereas nitrogen is associated with higher damage. Fertilisers can indeed contribute to integrated weevil management in East African highland bananas.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Hannington Bukomeko

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Graduate fellow at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

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