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20th September 2024

Dear Editor,

EGUSPHERE-2024-315. Trapnell's Upper Valley Soils of Zambia: the production of an integrated understanding of geomorphology, pedology, ecology and land use

On behalf of my colleagues I am glad to return our revised version of the above paper. Our responses to Reviewer 2 who requested these edits is given below.

With thanks and kind regards



Murray Lark

Review of revised version Namwany et al.

The authors have responded satisfactorily to my suggestions concerning content, and have made all the minor corrections and stylistic adjustments I recommended in my technical comments. I have made a few additional corrections of minor errors of form that I either missed in the first review or that appeared in the new text that was added during revision.

I guess my comments concerning the use of a hyphen (or not) in "land use" were not clear. The term takes a hyphen when it is a compound adjective modifying a noun, for example, "land-use change" (or "land-use practices", as on line 344). It does NOT take a hyphen when "use" is a noun and "land" is an adjective modifying it. In the title, for example, the correct form is "land use". Other places where the hyphen needs to be deleted to give two separate words : lines 46, 189, 341, 424, 519, 695, 749, 787, 1049, 1050, 1067. **These changes have been made. The only places where "land-use" is hyphenated are line 348 and 427 in the revised paper where it serves as a compound adjective.**

Line 39 : I just did a Google Scholar search and found 31 citations of Smith and Trapnell (2001). It might be interesting to consult some of the additional ones not found in the Web of Science search. **This section has been rewritten, referring to both Web of Science and Google Scholar, but making the point that, to date, the records have been cited to provide evidence on a range of questions from ethnobotany to past biodiversity, but not subjected to systematic close reading to study the survey process itself (lines 39 – 47 in the revised paper). Some of the new citations were found on Google Scholar.**

Line 44 : You might consider citing these two references if you found them useful. **Speek (2014) and Bowman (2011) are cited at line 49 of the revised paper.**

Line 96 : insert a comma between "landscape" and "was" **Done, line 100 of the revised paper.**

Line 105 : It is conventional to give the page number of a reference from which a direct quote was taken. **Done, line 109 of the revised paper.**

Line 159 : delete the comma after "records" (no punctuation just before a parenthesis) **Done, line 163 of the revised paper.**

Line 170 : insert a space between "P." and "Smith" **Done, line 174 of the revised paper.**

Line 181 : insert a comma after "Volume 1" **Done, line 185 of the revised paper.**

Line 190 : change "were" to "was" (subject of this verb is "information", singular) **Done, line 194 of the revised paper.**

Line 246 : "soil type of soil properties" : should "of" be "or" (or "and" ?) **Changed to "or", line 250 of the revised paper.**

Line 304 : Unless the error was already present in the text that is cited, change "usefuol" to "useful" **Done, line 308 of the revised paper.**

Line 324 : insert a comma after "(RML) " **Done, line 328 of the revised paper.**

Line 365 : "then" should be "than" **Done, line 369 of the revised paper.**

Lines 376-379 : This sentence is run-on. I suggest putting a period after "names" on line 377, and starting a new sentence with "Whilst" **Done, lines 380 – 383 of the revised paper.**

Line 393 : delete the comma after "time" (no punctuation just before a parenthesis) **Done, line 397 of the revised paper.**

Line 409 : Delete the comma just before "would" **Done, line 413 of the revised paper.**

Line 499 : "...542. Practices..." change to : "...542). Practices..." (second parenthesis is missing) **Done, line 503 of the revised paper.**

Line 535 : spelling error. Correct to "characteristic" **Done, line 539 of the revised paper.**

Line 550 : spell out the generic name *Brachystegia*, as this is the first time this species is mentioned in the text. **Done, line 554 of the revised paper.**

Line 592 : What does "these" refer to ? The logical antecedents in the preceding sentence ("information", or "recent change") are both singular. **The sentence beginning on line 596 of the revised paper has been revised to clarify this.**

Line 667 : change "they appears" to "they appear" **Done, line 671 of the revised paper.**

Line 669 : "as such which" : insert a comma to read "as such, which" **Done, line 673 of the revised paper.**

Lines 670-671 : change "low-regard" to "low regard" **Done, line 674 of the revised paper.**

Line 696 : "and is also highlighted" : change to : "and as also highlighted" **Done, line 700 of the revised paper.**

Line 705 : delete the comma just before the last word of the line **Done, line 709 of the revised paper.**

Line 706 : "trying to advancing" : change to : "trying to advance" **Done, line 710 of the revised paper.**

Line 708 : delete the comma after "reports" **Done, line 712 of the revised paper.**

Line 761 : "did not attend, a letter" : change to : "did not attend. A letter" **Done, line 765 of the revised paper.**

Line 776 : Why are there parentheses around the number of the table ? **Removed, line 780 of the revised paper.**

Lines 889-891 : Why do the words "main" and "village" bear an initial capital letter on line 889, but not on lines 890-891 ? **Capitals removed, paragraph beginning at line 892 of the revised paper.**

Figure 1, caption : "Map of Zambia, the black rectangle" : replace the comma by a semi-colon **Done.**

Figure 6 and Figure 7 : all the "sp" in the species names should be "sp.", as this is an abbreviation, and "sp." should not be in italics. **Done.**

Supplement : spell out the generic name for *B. tamarinoides* the first time it is mentioned. I don't think this species was already mentioned in the main text. I also don't recall previously seeing *B. mimosifolia*. **Done.**

Table S1 : Entry for 14th June 1932 : last entry on the page : three Latin names are not in italics **Done.**

I have not proofread the supplementary information in detail.

I like the supplementary table giving botanical names used by Trapnell and current names.

In the fourth line of the caption to this table (S10), change "is references" to "is referenced". Also, in the table itself, the spelling of *Julbernardia* has not been corrected. (in the table, this name is missing the second "r") **Done.**

I don't think you have any table where you give the scientific names of the crops. The vernacular names might be ok for most crops, but some might be ambiguous. For example, in Table 1 of the main text, I suppose that "groundnut" is *Arachis hypogaea* and that "groundbean" is *Vigna subterranea*, but I would prefer to be sure. A supplementary table with scientific names of the crops mentioned would be a useful addition. **Done.**