**Letter to the Editor**

**Dear Editor,**

Please find attached herewith our manuscript (as a word file- 32 pages along with 2 Tables, and 3 Figs) entitled "**Differential proteomic analysis of date palm leaves infested with the red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferruginneus* (Olivier) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)"** that I would like to publish in Florida Entomologist.

This effort is a continuation of our previous work where we reported the differential proteomic analysis of the date palm **stem** **tissues** associated with the RPW infestation (Rasool KG, Khan MA, Aldawood AS, Tufail M, Mukhtar M, Takeda M. 2015. Identification of proteins modulated in the date palm stem infested with red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Oliv.) using two dimensional differential gel electrophoresis and mass spectrometry. International Journal of Molecular Sciences 16: 19326 – 19346).

In this manuscript, efforts have been made to examine the response of date palm infested with RPW based on the **leaf tissues** proteome expression changes by using a highly sensitive two-dimensional differential gel electrophoresis (2D-DIGE) followed by Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization- Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF). Our differential proteomics analysis has led to the identification of 32 RPW infestation specific protein spots (p≤0.05 having ≥1.5-fold modulation) that were further subjected to mass spectrometric analysis for their identification and characterization. Protein involved in stress/defense related, photosynthetic, carbohydrate utilization system and protein degradation were mainly modulated in infested plants. The differentially expressed RPW infestation specific peptides can be used as biomarker for the identification of early infestation with this insect in date palm trees. Moreover, our study has opened avenues for utilizing proteomic strategies in diagnosing phyto-infestation caused by insect pests, diseases, and best varieties selection including several desirable traits identification in plant kingdom.

I hope that our manuscript would be interesting for the readers of this journal.

Best regards

Sincerely

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