Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	**Current Journal of Applied Science and Technology**
Manuscript Number:	**Ms_CJAST_71170**
Title of the Manuscript:	**Atmospheric benzene and determination of trans, trans-muconic acid of workers at oil sites in Pointe-Noire.**
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://peerreviewcentral.com/page/manuscript-withdrawal-policy)

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	**Used methodology does not present any advance.** **Lack of quality assurance procedure** **It is necessary the explanation of the abnormal result obtained in Djeno for the badge number 5** **If all workers use equipment for individual protection (masks) as shown in Figure 1, the concentration of SPMA in urine won't be caused exclusively by benzene.**	The purpose of this study was not to identify a new technique for assessing worker exposure to benzene. We used a classical methodology in this type of evaluation, in particular the determination of benzene in the work atmosphere (Badge or pump) over the 8 hours of work and the determination of biomarker of the presence of the toxic sought. The results are then compared with limit values and biological exposure indices. All stages of this study were carried out with optimum quality assurance. The analyses of the badges and urine were done in the laboratory accredited COFRAC of France, TOXILABO which is the best in this field. We made the badges and urine collection available to workers on site, strictly respecting the recommendations of the analysis laboratory. The abnormal result on the djeno site was analysed in the discussion chapter (highlighted in yellow, page 8). Trans, trans-muconic acid is not just a biomarker of benzene exposure. It can also be found in the urine of heavy smokers. It is also a urinary metabolite of sorbitol found in certain drugs or foods. Nevertheless, in occupational settings, one of the preferred bio-indicators of benzene exposure remains to date. This study may also indirectly measure the effectiveness of protective measures (e.g., respirators) used in this company where exposure to benzene is ongoing
Minor REVISION comments	Interpretation values of correlation coefficient are not necessary. Some language review is necessary. The mention of 5-phenylmercapturic acid is unnecessary. If S-phenylmercapturic acid is a biomarker of choice for benzene, how it wasn't used?	We have interpreted the correlation values to be more precise and avoid that the reader who is not informed enough to refer to another document to understand these notions. We have reviewed the text and the corrections are highlighted in yellow in the document. Indeed, this sentence has no place in this work and has been corrected (highlighted in yellow in the document).
Optional/General comments	The submitted paper presents new results about environmental and workers contamination by benzene in oil exploration in Congo. It describes the situation observed in onshore and offshore sites obtained by using trans,trans muconic acid as biomarker and GABIE badge for atmospheric benzene collection.	No comment because this is a conclusion of the reviewer which I fully agree with.

PART 2:

	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)*
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	*(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)*	There were no ethical issues in this manuscript