

The paper by Du et al reports the synthesis and insecticidal activities of a series of compounds containing the 2-phenylpyridine and N-phenylbenzamide substructures.

The authors must provide a Supplementary section with the NMR spectra.

It is very difficult to assess just how active these herbicides are. The leaves are simply soaked in a solution of each compound at a single concentration (500 mg/L) and insects allowed to eat the leaves for 3 days. It would be much more informative if several concentrations were used (say 500 mg/L and 100 mg/L) and if the corresponding results for a known insecticide were compared with those of the new compounds.

The other main problem with the paper is that the English is very poor. In particular, most of the Introduction needs rewriting. For example:

Line 18. Omit (saying that pyridine contains nitrogen and is like benzene might be justified if the reader were 15 years old).

Line 19. Replace multifarious biological activities by a range of biological activities.

Line 20. **What** is appearing in the structure of herbicides?

Line 22. Replace good activities in biological field by had good biological activity as (insecticides or pesticides?).

Line 23. Replace are frequently reported by have been reported.

Lines 27-39. Needs rewriting (very poor English).

Line 30. Replace Some commercialized insecticides such as chlorantraniliprole by The commercial insecticide chlorantraniliprole.

Lines 34, 35. Replace has been widely used in soybean, rice, cotton, corn and other special crops fields by has been widely used for the protection of crops such as soybean, rice, cotton, and corn.

Line 38. Replace upper by above.

Lines 39-41. The meaning of this sentence is unclear. Rewrite.

Other corrections:

Line 56. Replace amidated reaction in considerable by an amidation reaction in good

Line 57. Detection results were consistent with the prediction. What does this sentence mean? Reword.

Line 61. *mythimna separata* (and elsewhere throughout the text) should be *Mythimna separata*.

Line 66. Replace found by find.

Line 79. Replace solvents by solvent.

Line 86. Replace triphenylphosphorus by triphenylphosphine

Line 151. Molecular formula for 5e is incorrect.

Line 159. Calculated MW for 5f is incorrect.

Line 166. Calculated MW for 5g is incorrect.

Lines 203-205. *corn leaves, after fully soaked in the liquid medicine*. For how long were the corn leaves soaked? *put it into the culture dish with filter paper*. What was the purpose of the filter paper?

Lines 206-207. *are placed in the Observe the indoor culture at 24-27 °C*, I could not understand this. Please explain more clearly.

In conclusion, in its present form, this paper is not recommended for publication in *Molecules*.