**Denpasar, 10 October 2023**

Dear Dr. Miftahul Ilmi,

I am pleased to submit our manuscript entitled **“The First Report of The Occurrence Root Mealybug *Ripersiella multiporifera* Jansen (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Rhizoecidae) in Indonesia”** by **Komang Saraswati Devi, I Putu Sudiarta, Anak Agung Ayu Agung Sri Sunari, Gusti Ngurah Alit Susanta Wirya, Putu Shinta Devi, Febri Eka Wijayanti** for consideration as a *Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology* **Short Communication***.*

In this manuscript, **we identified root mealybug from Adenium root in Bali. Based on morphological and molecular identification, this mealybug species was then identified as *Ripersiella multiporifera* (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Rhizoecidae). This specieswas first discovered in import interceptions on Sansevieria sp. from Indonesia and *Hoya kerrii* from Thailand. Meanwhile there have been no reports of the existence of this mealybug species in Indonesia. This finding represents the initial documentation of *Ripersiella multiporifera*’s presence in Indonesia.**

We believe that our paper is appropriate for publication by *Journal of Tropical Biodiversity and Biotechnology* because in **this study reported information of root mealybugs, because this species has not been reported in Indonesia, however the first report about this species was from Indonesia and Thailand. It is new information about the existence of *Ripersiella multiporifera* in Indonesia.**

**Our manuscript creates for the future studies to achieve this development, further information about the *Ripersiella multiporifera* in Bali, Indonesia which is a root mealybug species. For future research, it is very possible to use this as the key pest in Indonesia. Therefore, it is necessary to know the identification of this pest in other regions in Indonesia to design the pest control management, especially for the quarantine regulation base.**

This manuscript has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. We have no conflicts of interest to disclose. If you feel that the manuscript is appropriate for your journal, we suggest the following reviewers:

**Melissa P. Montecalvo Entomology [National Crop Protection Center, College of Agriculture and Food Science University of the Philippines Los Baños, 4031, College, Laguna, Philippines. email:** [**mpmontecalvo@up.edu.ph**](mailto:mpmontecalvo@up.edu.ph)**, phone: +639192564153], Katrina Klett, Entomology [Department of Natural Resources Scientific Management Program, University of Minnesota, USA. ]** **email:** [**katrina.klett@elevatedhoneyco.com**](mailto:katrina.klett@elevatedhoneyco.com)**, and Sri Wahyuni, Entomology [Faculty of Agriculture Universitas Flores email:** [**sriwahyuni\_uniflor@yahoo.co.id**](mailto:sriwahyuni_uniflor@yahoo.co.id) **phone: +62981338440057],** if requested by the journal.

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,



I Putu Sudiarta, Ph.D

(Master of Agricultural Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Udayana University)

[putusudiarta@unud.ac.id/putu.ueda@yahoo.com]

081338091811