

Journal Name:	<a href="#">Journal of Biology and Nature</a>
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JOBAN_12582
Title of the Manuscript:	<b>Microfauna Hidden in Moss: First Report of Testate Amoebae from Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar, India</b>
Type of the Article	<b>Original Research Article</b>

### **General guidelines for the 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.

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**PART 1: Comments**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's Feedback</b> <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors</i>
<b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b>	India is a vast country with diverse habitats and a rich variety of fauna. This preliminary checklist is a valuable addition to a largely overlooked aspect of its biodiversity. While the author has not elaborated extensively on the subject, the use of moss habitats for Testate Amoebae as indicators of environmental change is commendable. I hope the author will continue to collaborate with fellow researchers in India to explore the <del>distribution and indicators</del>	
<b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an</b>	<b>I suggest the following title</b> "An annotated checklist of the moss-associated testate amoebae of Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary, Bihar, Indi" <sup>a</sup>	

<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	<p>The Abstract is acceptable. But here is a suggested corrected version of the Abstract: Moss-associated testate amoebae from Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar have not yet been documented in the literature. Therefore, this article represents the initial attempt to document and assess the species richness of testate amoebae in this sanctuary. Testate amoebae are single-celled organisms within the protist group, characterised by their complex outer chitin shells. They are well-known as bioindicators due to their sensitivity to environmental changes. In September 2024, moss samples were collected from various locations within the sanctuary as part of a faunal survey to evaluate the diversity of testate amoebae in moss habitats. Analysis of these samples revealed 17 species of testate amoebae belonging to six genera and six families during this preliminary investigation. These findings constitute new records for Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar and highlight the importance of moss as a critical habitat for these species”.</p>	
<p><b>Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.</b></p>	<p>Yes. The author notes in the Materials and Methods section that "The processing of samples followed the non-flooded petri dish method outlined by Foissner (1992)." It would be beneficial for the author to provide a brief overview of the non-flooded petri dish method. Additionally, estimating species richness in the samples collected from various biotopes would add value to the article.</p>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p>	<p>I suggest that the author consult the following two references, as well as the references cited within them.  Freitas, Y.D.G.C., Ramos, B.R.D.O., da Silva, Y.G., Sampaio, G.S., da Silva Nascimento, L., Branco, C.W.C. and dos Santos Miranda, V.B., 2022. Testate amoebae: a review on their multiple uses as bioindicators. <i>Acta Protozoologica</i>, 61, pp.1-21.  Kuuri-Riutta, O., Väiliranta, M. and Tuittila, E.S., 2022. Literature review on testate amoebae as environmental indicators and as a functional part of the microbial community in northern peatlands. <i>Mires and Peat</i>, 22, p.28.</p>	

<b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b>	I recommend that the article be reviewed by a native English speaker.	
<b>Optional/General</b> comments	The microphotographs of testate amoebae from Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bihar, shown in Plate 1, are acceptable, except for number 17, Trinema galeata, which should be replaced or removed. Additionally, Map 1 is not legible.	

**PART 2:**

	<b>Reviewer's comment</b>	<b>Author's comment</b> (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)
<b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b>	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

**Reviewer Details:**

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