

1 **Seasonal influence on suitability of masquerade tree as a**
2 **bioindicator of vehicular pollution along**
3 **University of Ilorin Road**

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11 **Abstract:** This study focused on the seasonal impacts on the suitability of
12 masquerade (*P. longifolia*) as a bioindicator of vehicular pollutants. Some leaves
13 of the tree were plucked along the roadside and from a control site with no vehi-
14 cular emissions. Biochemical parameters, including pH, ascorbic acid content,
15 relative water content, total chlorophyll, and Air Pollution Tolerance Index
16 (APTI), were determined in both dry and wet seasons using standard methods.
17 Potentially toxic elements commonly associated with automobile pollutants (Pb,
18 Zn, Cr, Mn, Fe, and Cu) were analyzed using atomic absorption spectroscopy
19 (AAS), after acid digestion. The concentrations of potentially toxic elements
20 were slightly higher in leaves from roadside masquerade tree than in those from
21 the control site, except for Cr and Cu at some sampling points during the wet
22 season. The biochemical properties in the roadside samples indicated the presence
23 of pollutants compared to the control site in both seasons. APTI of the roadside
24 samples showed higher sensitivity (mean value = 10.30) in the dry season, indicat-
25 ing a gradual loss in tolerance to pollution; however, a slight increase (mean
26 value = 11.23) in tolerance was observed in the wet season. The masquerade tree
27 demonstrated its sensitivity to vehicular pollution in both seasons. It is more
28 sensitive in the dry season but tends to tolerate pollutants in the wet season by
29 increasing APTI through improved defence mechanisms.

30 **Keywords:** bioindicator; vehicular pollution; masquerade tree; potentially toxic
31 elements.

32 INTRODUCTION

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33 High levels of vehicular pollution are a common problem in urban areas,
34 which can harm public health and air quality.¹ This is a consequence of using low-
35 -quality fuel, old and poorly maintained cars on the road,² and some other processes
36 as friction between tyres and the road surface.^{3,4} Air pollution through vehicular
37 activities generates a lot of pollutants such as oxides of carbon (CO and CO₂),
38 nitrogen (NO_x), sulphur (SO_x), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and potentially
39 toxic elements.⁵ This menace of air pollution needs immediate and long-term
40 monitoring and mitigation as it has both direct and indirect effects on human health
41 and the environment.

42 One potential approach to monitoring and mitigating this pollution is the use
43 of bioindicators, or living organisms, that can serve as sensitive indicators of environ-
44 mental conditions or sinks for pollutants. Two major sinks of pollutants are plants
45 and soil.^{5,6} Air pollution is among the many environmental challenges that plants,
46 a lovely gift from nature, can help mitigate.⁷ Most air pollutants are deposited on the
47 plants' leaves and are removed through stomata on their surfaces.^{8,9}

48 Several trees and plants have reportedly been used as bioindicators in many
49 urban cities worldwide to monitor levels of air pollution caused by vehicular
50 emissions and other activities, such as industrial discharges. Different plant species
51 exhibit varying levels of sensitivity and tolerance to different forms of air pollut-
52 ion.⁶ Bello *et al.*¹⁰ reported the utilization of Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia*
53 *diversifolia*) for monitoring air pollution around the iron smelting industry, and the
54 study concluded that there was an impact of the industry on the plant. For vehicular
55 emission, *Polyalthia longifolia* (masquerade tree), *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (peac-
56 ock flower or barbados pride tree), *Delonix regia* (flamboyant tree), *Tamarindus*
57 *indica* (tamarind tree), *Terminalia catappa* (tropical almond tree), *Mangifera*
58 *indica* (mango tree), *Ficus platyphylla* (broad-leaved fig tree), *Ficus benghalensis*
59 *L* (banyan tree), *Azadirachta indica* A.Juss (neem tree), *Ficus religiosa* *L* (bodhi
60 tree), *Ficus benjamina* *L* (as weeping fig tree) and *Bougainvillea glabra* (paper
61 flower tree) that were exposed to roadside automobile pollution, stress was
62 reported.^{2,5,9} The Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) is typically used to assess
63 how sensitive and tolerant certain plants are to air pollution.^{6,11} A measure of pH,
64 ascorbic acid content (AAC), relative water content (RWC), and total chlorophyll
65 in the leaves of a particular tree is used to determine how plants respond to
66 pollution.⁹ Plants that are sensitive to pollutants are used as indicators, while those
67 that are tolerant consume the pollutant and reduce the level of pollution in the
68 environment.^{11,12}

69 Masquerade trees (*P. longifolia*), among others, have been widely studied as
70 bioindicators of vehicular emissions. No wonder it is planted along the main road
71 leading into the University of Ilorin's campus in Nigeria. This tall, evergreen tree
72 native to tropical Asia is also known as the Indian mast tree.¹³ Various positions
73 have been taken on its application as a bioindicator. Kirthika & Vishnuprasad¹⁴

74 reported that it has an intermediate tolerance to vehicular pollution based on its
75 APTI value. Its potential as a bioindicator of vehicular pollutants was also related
76 to its ability to accumulate potentially toxic elements.¹⁵ Similarly, Umar *et al.*¹⁶
77 stated that *P. longifolia* has the highest dust-carrying capacity among the studied
78 plant species, indicating its potential as a bioindicator of vehicular pollution. Also,
79 Azam *et al.*¹⁷ reported that it is less sensitive to vehicular pollution than the other
80 trees used in their study, based on APTI values.

81 According to the existing research, the masquerade tree is a viable bioindicator
82 for tracking air pollution and vehicle emissions in urban environments. However,
83 there is little or no information on the effect of seasons on its efficiency in response
84 to pollution. Therefore, this present study investigated the effect of seasonal
85 conditions on its ability to serve as a bioindicator of vehicular pollutants.

86 EXPERIMENTAL

87 *Description of study area*

88 The University of Ilorin (Better by Far), also known as Unilorin, is a federal government-
89 owned University located in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. The institution has a large landmass
90 of approximately 15,000 hectares and is situated in the southern part of the city. The University,
91 with approximately 3,040 staff and 34,999 students, experiences a high number of vehicles
92 plying the road from the gate to the campus, especially the University's main car park. The dry
93 and wet seasons are the two main seasons in the region. The dry season covers November and
94 April of the following year. The wet season lasts between April and October.

95 *Sample collection*

96 Leaf samples of masquerade tree (*P. longifolia*) known as the masquerade tree were
97 collected in January (dry season) and May (wet season), 2023. These sites were the University
98 roadsides from the Fountain roundabout towards the gate and walkways (control site). Four
99 samples were collected from the roadside at the following coordinates: 8.47650°N 4.67212°E
100 (RS1), 8.47617°N 4.67182°E (RS2), 8.47556°N 4.67165°E (RS3) and 8.47499°N 4.67100°E
101 (RS4). The control sample was taken at 8.48105°N, 4.67400°E. The samples were collected in
102 a sealed, air-tight bags.

103 *Determination of potentially toxic elements (PTEs) concentration*

104 A 20 mL of an aqua regia solution (15 mL 37% HCl and 5 mL 65% HNO₃) was added to
105 1 g of the finely ground leaf samples in the digestion beaker. This solution was then heated
106 using a hot plate until it became transparent. The heating process then continued for an
107 additional 20 minutes, after which deionized water (50 mL) was added. The mixture was filtered
108 into a 100 mL standard flask using a funnel and Whatman filter paper. The content was brought
109 up to the 100 mL mark and stored in a sample bottle for PTEs analysis.¹⁸ Concentrations of
110 selected PTEs (Pb, Zn, Cr, Mn, Fe, and Cu) were analyzed in the samples using a BUCK
111 Scientific ACCUSYS 230 atomic absorption spectrophotometer.

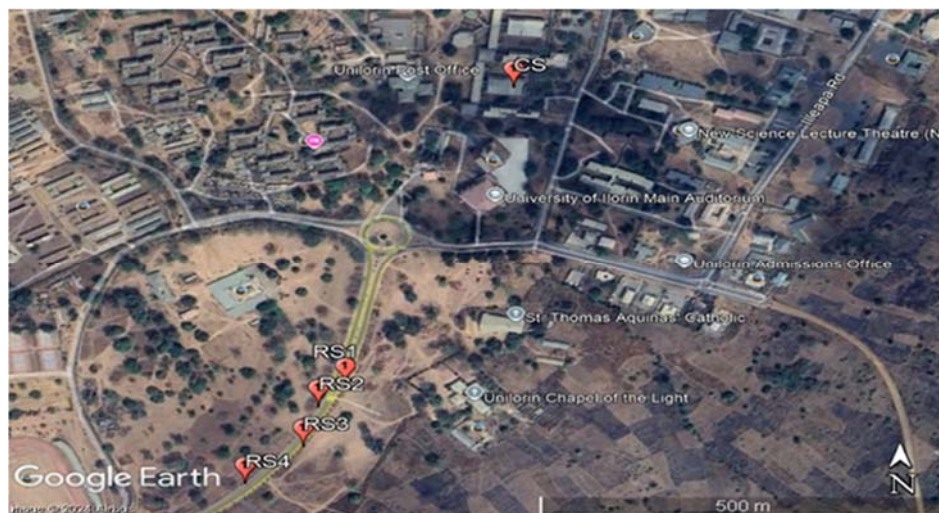


Fig. 1. Sampling site along the University of Ilorin main road Source: Google Earth

112

113

114 *pH measurement*

115 The pH of the leaves was determined using a slightly modified method reported by Pandey
 116 *et al.*¹⁹ Here, five grams (5 g) of the leaves were crushed and homogenized with a pestle and
 117 mortar. It was mixed thoroughly for five minutes with 10 mL of distilled water. Then, the
 118 mixture was separated by centrifugation, and the supernatant obtained was subjected to pH
 119 estimation using a digital tabletop pH meter (Watson pH-2602).

120 *Relative water content (RWC)*

121 One gram (1 g) of fresh masquerade tree leaves was accurately weighed and immersed in
 122 water for 12 h. The fully hydrated weights of the leaves were measured after they were saturated
 123 with water. The leaves were further dried in an oven (Gallenkamp OV-160) at 105°C overnight,
 124 and their dry weight was subsequently measured. Then the RWC (%) was calculated using
 125 equation 1:

126
$$RWC(\%) = \frac{F - D}{T - D} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

127 where F is the weight (g) of the fresh leaves; T is the hydrated weight (g), and D is the dry
 128 weight (g) at 105°C.^{11,20}

129 *Ascorbic acid content (AAC)*

130 The AAC in each sample was quantified and expressed as milligrams per 100 grams using
 131 a slightly modified method of Vahid.²¹ Ten grams (10 g) of the leaves were blended with a 4%
 132 oxalic acid (C₂H₂O₄) solution, and the volume was made up to 100 mL using the same 4%
 133 oxalic acid solution. The solution was then filtered as an extract using a 110 mm grade 1
 134 Whatman filter paper. A 5 mL aliquot of the sample extract was titrated with a standardized
 135 solution of 2,6-dichlorophenol indophenol (dye). The AAC was then calculated using equation 2:

136
$$AC(mg100g^{-1}) = \frac{\text{Dye_factor} \times V_2 \times 100}{V_1 - W} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

137 where W is the weight (g) of a sample taken for extraction with oxalic acid; V₁ is the
138 volume (mL) of sample extract taken for titration and V₂ is the volume (mL) of dye required
139 (titer value). The dye factor was calculated from the standardization of the dye solution.

140 *Total chlorophyll (TCh)*

141 Fifty milligrams (50 mg) of the fresh leaves were crushed and added to a vial containing
142 7 mL of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), and then incubated at 65 °C for 30 min. The mixture was
143 centrifuged, separated into 10 mL standard and then made up to 10 mL with DMSO. The sample
144 was analyzed using a spectrophotometer (VWR UV-6300PC) at wavelengths of 645 nm and
145 663 nm, with a blank as a reference. Then the TCh was calculated using equation 3:

$$146 \quad TCh(mg \cdot g^{-1}) = \frac{20.34 \times A_{648} + 7.49 \times A_{665}}{W \times 1000} \times V \quad (3)$$

147 where V is the initial volume of extract; W is the weight of the sample taken; A₆₄₈ and
148 A₆₆₅ are the optical density (OD) values measured at 648 nm and 665 nm, respectively. 20.34
149 and 7.49 are the absorption coefficients.²²

150 *Air pollution tolerance index (APTI)*

151 The air pollution tolerance index (APTI) of the tree was calculated using the expression
152 given in equation 4:

$$153 \quad APTI = \frac{[AAC(TCh + pH) + RWC]}{10} \quad (4)$$

154 where AAC is the ascorbic acid content (mg g⁻¹); TCh is the total chlorophyll (mg g⁻¹);
155 pH is the pH of leaves, and RWC is the relative water content (%).²³

156 *Statistical analysis*

157 For each sampling point and season, the mean values of each biochemical property, along
158 with their standard deviations, are presented. Using Microsoft Excel 2016 Tool Packs for Data
159 analysis, the relationship between biochemical properties and the Air Pollution Tolerance Index
160 (APTI) was analyzed using correlation analysis.

161 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

162 *Concentration of potentially toxic elements (PTEs)*

163 The concentration of PTEs in the leaves of the masquerade tree from the four
164 (4) sampling points (RS1-RS4) and that of the control site (CS) with seasons are
165 presented in Tables Ia and Ib for dry and wet seasons, respectively. The plot of
166 their mean values relative to the control site is presented in Figs. 2a and 2b for dry
167 and wet seasons, respectively.

168 It is observed that all selected PTEs, which are usually associated with
169 vehicular emissions, are present in roadside samples. Their presence in the control
170 sample is lower, except for chromium (Cr), which showed a slightly higher
171 concentration in the CS than in the three RS (RS1, RS2, and RS3), and copper
172 (Cu), which had a higher concentration in the CS than in all the RS samples during
173 the wet season. This exception may be due to the high mobility of the metal ions
174 during the wet season. Similarly, stormwater containing PTEs from various

175 sources can be readily deposited and may affect the control sample.^{24,25}
 176 Interestingly, a major PTE (Pb) attributed to vehicular emissions was not detected
 177 in the CS during the wet season. Additionally, the leaves of the plant from RS1 to
 178 RS4 recorded significantly higher values of potentially toxic elements than those
 179 of the CS in the dry season. The observation is justified by the plant's proximity to
 180 the road and the long accumulation of dust containing these potentially toxic
 181 elements on its leaves, which prevents rainwater from washing it away.

182 The mean concentrations of the potentially toxic elements from the roadside
 183 sampling points (RS1-RS4) are more than the control site (CS) copper (Cu) in the
 184 wet season (Figs. 2a and 2b). The presence of potentially toxic elements in such
 185 amounts (higher than those at the control site) is likely due to contamination of the
 186 ambient environment by vehicular emissions. The presence of PTEs in
 187 uncontaminated environmental media (air, soil, and water) is not unlikely, but
 188 vehicular emissions are a significant source in urban environments. These metallic
 189 elements originate from various car parts and operations, including fuel
 190 combustion, tyre friction, brake wear, and road surface abrasion.^{3,4}

191 TABLE Ia. Concentration of potentially toxic elements (mg L⁻¹) in the masquerade leaves
 192 during dry season

Sites	Concentration of potentially toxic elements (mg L ⁻¹)					
	Pb	Zn	Cr	Mn	Fe	Cu
RS1	0.086	0.278	0.054	0.469	1.533	0.116
RS2	0.036	0.371	0.052	0.505	1.615	0.121
RS3	0.055	0.341	0.052	0.512	1.445	0.105
RS4	0.099	0.210	0.048	0.287	1.747	0.107
Mean±SD	0.069±0.02	0.30±0.06	0.052±0.002	0.443±0.09	1.585±0.11	0.112±0.01
CS	0.023	0.108	0.047	0.163	0.866	0.062

193 TABLE Ib. Concentration of potentially toxic elements (mg L⁻¹) in the masquerade leaves
 194 during wet season; ND means Not Detected

Sites	Concentration of potentially toxic elements (mg L ⁻¹)					
	Pb	Zn	Cr	Mn	Fe	Cu
RS1	0.047	0.623	0.032	0.558	2.511	0.051
RS2	0.087	0.520	0.038	0.492	2.578	0.089
RS3	0.048	1.221	0.040	0.409	1.604	0.058
RS4	0.046	1.832	0.084	0.297	1.836	0.012
Mean±SD	0.057±0.02	1.049±0.53	0.0489±0.02	0.439±0.10	2.132±0.42	0.053±0.03
CS	ND	0.301	0.044	0.272	0.384	0.109

Dry	6.47	6.44	6.45	6.49	6.46±0.02	6.53
Wet	7.05	6.75	6.78	6.97	6.89±0.13	7.14

207 It is observed that all the samples, including the control, are slightly acidic in
 208 the dry season. Although the control site (CS) is less acidic (pH 6.53) compared to
 209 the individual roadside samples and their mean value (pH 6.46). The tree recorded
 210 higher pH levels during the wet season than in the dry season, with the highest
 211 value of 7.14 at the control site and the lowest value of 6.75 at RS2, which can be
 212 approximated to 7.0. An acidic pH indicates that NO_x and SO_x are present in the
 213 air, and their presence can be attributed to vehicular emissions from the burning of
 214 fossil fuels.^{26,27} Plant health and soil composition are greatly impacted by acid
 215 rain, which is brought on by SO_x and NO_x emissions in the atmosphere.²⁸ It lowers
 216 the pH of rainwater below 5.6 and consequently affects the photosynthetic
 217 processes, influencing plant development, productivity, and yield.^{28,29} It induces
 218 oxidative stress by generating reactive nitrogen species (RNS) when it reacts with
 219 reactive oxygen species (ROS), and damages lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids.³⁰
 220 Plants with a pH of around 7.0 are tolerant.²⁷ In this study, the pH level of the
 221 masquerade tree's leaves from a less polluted control site (CS) is 7.14, indicating
 222 that the tree is naturally (without pollution) air pollution-tolerant plant.

223 *Relative water content (RWC)*

224 The results of the RWC are presented in Table III. The highest relative water
 225 content was observed in the control sample, at 97.88% and 98.21% in the dry and
 226 wet seasons, respectively.

227 TABLE III. Relative water content of the leaves from the masquerade tree at the roadside (RS)
 228 and control site (CS) samples

Season	Relative water content (%)					
	RS1	RS2	RS3	RS4	Mean±SD	CS
Dry	94.39	94.89	96.13	91.24	94.16±1.80	97.88
Wet	96.26	96.48	97.84	94.31	96.22±1.26	98.21

229 However, all selected locations showed a significant RWC value. The relative
 230 water content (RWC) of a leaf represents the water it retains compared to its fully
 231 turgid state and serves as a crucial indicator of plant response to pollution.
 232 Although the wet season affects the plant, the RWC of the roadside sample is still
 233 lower than that of the control site in the dry season. The result indicates roadside
 234 pollution, as plant RWC is reduced in contaminated environments. In stressful
 235 situations, such as exposure to air pollution, when transpiration rates are often high,
 236 a plant's high water content aids in maintaining its physiological equilibrium.³¹
 237 Plants with high relative water content under polluted conditions may be tolerant
 238 to pollutants.

239 *Ascorbic acid content (AAC)*

240 The AAC of tree leaves is a major biochemical property that is strongly
 241 affected by vehicular pollution, along with other factors such as chlorophyll
 242 content. The results of the ascorbic acid content in the leaves of the masquerade
 243 tree, in this study, are presented in Table IV.

244 TABLE IV. Ascorbic acid content of the leaves from the masquerade tree at the roadside (RS)
 245 and control site (CS) samples

Season	Ascorbic acid content (mg g ⁻¹)					
	RS1	RS2	RS3	RS4	Mean±SD	CS
Dry	1.056	1.036	1.023	1.234	1.087±0.08	0.99
Wet	1.538	1.386	1.564	1.736	1.556±1.02	1.367

246 The results of the study revealed that the masquerade tree recorded its lowest
 247 ascorbic acid content at the control site compared to the individual roadside
 248 sampling points (RS1-RS4) and their mean values in both the dry and wet seasons.
 249 The higher AAC observed at the roadside sampling point is likely due to their
 250 biochemical response to stress caused by pollution.^{32,33} The tree maintains higher
 251 ascorbic acid levels under polluted conditions, indicating its tolerance to air
 252 pollutants. However, the AAC was higher at all sampling points, including the
 253 control site, during the wet season compared to the dry season.

254 *Total chlorophyll content (TCh)*

255 The highest total chlorophyll content was observed at one of the roadside
 256 sampling sites (RS1), at 2.839 mg g⁻¹ and 3.448 mg g⁻¹ for the dry and wet
 257 seasons, respectively (Table V). However, the mean values in both seasons are
 258 lower than those at the control site. The lower total chlorophyll value in the
 259 roadside samples (mean value) compared with the control site indicates the impact
 260 of automobile pollutants on the plant.

261 Iqbal *et al.*³² reported that elevated levels of automobile pollution reduce
 262 chlorophyll content in plants growing near roadways. However, chlorophyll
 263 content in plants varies based on species, leaf age, pollution levels, and various
 264 biotic and abiotic factors.³⁵ Vehicular pollutants like SO₂, NO_x, and O₃ react with
 265 the leaf's chloroplast and consequently decrease the chlorophyll content.³⁶

266 TABLE V. Chlorophyll content of the leaves from the masquerade tree at the roadside (RS) and
 267 control site (CS) samples

Season	Total Chlorophyll content (mg g ⁻¹)					
	RS1	RS2	RS3	RS4	Mean±SD	CS
Dry	2.839	1.387	1.024	1.643	1.723±0.68	2.396
Wet	3.448	1.749	2.153	2.538	2.472±0.62	3.232

268 *Air pollution tolerance index (APTI)*

269 The results of the Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) of the masquerade
 270 tree from the roadside (RS) and control site (CS) are presented in Table VI. The
 271 APTI mean value of the roadside sampling points compared with the control site
 272 for both seasons is presented in Fig. 3. The results obtained from all the roadside
 273 sampling points (RS1-RS4) and control site (CS) compared with the APTI
 274 categories (Table VII) reported by Lakshmi *et al.*¹² suggested that the plant is
 275 sensitive to air pollutants. It is observed that the masquerade tree is sensitive to air
 276 pollution levels along the University's roadside.

277 TABLE VI. The APTI of the masquerade tree from the roadside sampling points (RS) and the
 278 control site (CS)

Sampling Points	APTI	
	Dry Season	Wet Season
RS1	10.42	11.24
RS2	10.29	10.83
RS3	10.38	11.18
RS4	10.13	11.08
CS	10.67	11.24

279 TABLE VII. APTI category

Category	APTI value range
Tolerant species	30–100
Intermediate-tolerant species	17–20
Sensitive species	1–16
Very sensitive species	< 1

280 The seasonal effect showed that its sensitivity is marginally higher during the
 281 dry season compared to the wet season. A plant's ability to mitigate air pollution
 282 is indicated by its Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI), where higher index values
 283 signify greater tolerance.³⁷ It is an index for determining how plants react biochemically
 284 and physiologically to environmental conditions. Pollution-sensitive
 285 plants aid in detecting pollution, whereas tolerant plants serve as sinks in polluted
 286 areas to help reduce pollution.^{11,12}

287 The correlations between biochemical properties and APTI for the dry and wet
 288 seasons are presented in Tables VIIIa and VIIIb, respectively. A significant positive
 289 correlation ($r = 0.8450$) was observed between the plant's relative water content
 290 (RWC) and the Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) during the dry season.
 291 During the wet season, the relationship is weak, although positive ($r = 0.1322$). A
 292 positive correlation between APTI and RWC was reported by Punit & Rai³⁶. Other
 293 factors, such as leaf thickness and soil moisture, also affect the relative water
 294 content, even in the presence of pollutants. The total chlorophyll of the leaves also
 295 showed a weak but positive correlation ($r = 0.3132$) in the dry season, but a strong

296 positive correlation ($r = 0.7776$) in the wet season. The amount of chlorophyll in
 297 plants' leaves varies depending on the species, age, season, drought stress, and
 298 pollution level.^{8,38} Other parameters, pH ($r = -0.5556$) and ascorbic acid content
 299 (AAC) ($r = -0.88722$), indicated a negative relationship with APTI in the dry
 300 season. This result implies that the lower pH and AAC observed in the tree leaves
 301 correlated with higher sensitivity (lower APTI). The result is likely due to higher
 302 levels of vehicular pollutant dust during the season. Reports have shown that APTI
 303 values generally decrease (with higher sensitivity) in polluted areas with lower pH
 304 and AAC compared to control sites.^{7,39} However, moderate positive correlations
 305 were found between the pH and APTI ($r = 0.6316$) and between AAC and APTI
 306 ($r = 0.5224$) in the wet season. Consequently, the increase in pH and AAC with
 307 increasing APTI value tends to reduce sensitivity and improve tolerance,
 308 suggesting a defence mechanism against air pollutants.

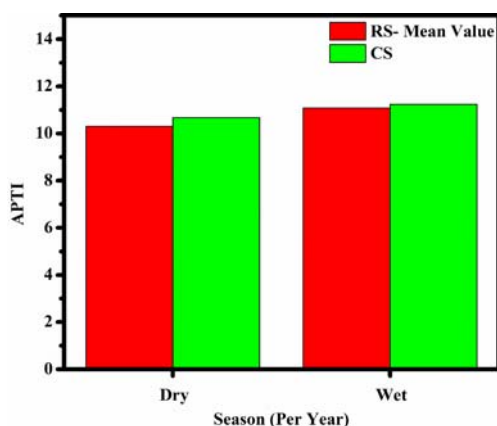


Fig 3. APTI of the roadside (RS) sampling points compared with the control site (CS) with season

309 TABLE VIIIa. Correlation between biochemical properties and APTI during dry season

	pH	RWC (%)	AAC (mg g ⁻¹)	TCh (mg g ⁻¹)	APTI
pH	1				
RWC (%)	-0.86411	1			
AAC (mg g ⁻¹)	0.876296	-0.97247	1		
TCh (mg g ⁻¹)	0.429714	-0.23069	0.06662	1	
APTI	-0.5556	0.845035	-0.88722	0.313231	1

310 TABLE VIIIb. Correlation between biochemical properties and APTI during wet season

	pH	RWC (%)	AAC (mg g ⁻¹)	TCh (mg g ⁻¹)	APTI
pH	1				
RWC (%)	-0.56025	1			
AAC (mg g ⁻¹)	0.549513	-0.60149	1		
TCh (mg g ⁻¹)	0.938304	-0.24072	0.367135	1	
APTI	0.631617	0.132173	0.522431	0.776754	1

311

CONCLUSION

312 This study focused on the seasonal impact on the suitability of the masquerade
 313 (*P. longifolia*) as a bioindicator of vehicular pollutants along the University of
 314 Ilorin Road. The results of potentially toxic elements and biochemical properties
 315 at the roadside sampling points (RS1-RS4) compared with the control site (CS)
 316 indicated the presence of air pollution during both dry and wet seasons. The
 317 seasonal effect on the plant is not significant since the pH is much closer to 7 in
 318 both seasons. The roadside masquerade trees can be considered pollution-tolerant
 319 due to their high ascorbic acid content, especially during the wet season. The
 320 relative water content was high in both seasons, but higher at the control site and
 321 in the wet season than at the roadsides and in the dry season. The plant's leaves
 322 showed the highest total chlorophyll content during the wet season. The APTI
 323 values in both seasons suggest that the plant is sensitive to air pollutants.
 324 Consequently, the overall conclusion is that the masquerade tree is sensitive to
 325 vehicular pollutants in both seasons, making it a suitable bioindicator. However,
 326 there was a reduction in sensitivity, resulting in improved tolerance during the wet
 327 season.

328

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332 M N JEED N . BEKN¹, M @ SHRU @ BDUS - S @ K @ M¹, K @ SEEE @ . HBR @ GHM¹, S @ NGEED N . BEKN²,
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334 ¹D db `qsl dmsneBgdll hxxk, UmhucdntxneHnqin, O M B . 1414, Hnqin, M hfdqh, ²D db `qsl dmsneM `stq`k
 335 Shrnbdtr `mc M `sgdl `sttr, Bnkdfdne@qsr `mc Shrnbdtr, V Hh`l U . S . Stal `m Umhucdntx, O . N . Brw 346 /,
 336 G `qcdqBhxx, M `qdk`mc Bntmsx, Klachh | ³M `sttr `kN hksolhkd dscrtrm `mc R drronmrd@fdhxx, O M B . 134,
 337 @ati`, M hfdqh

338 1 ú% Áuúí | ½ | ý%Á% ð % 0 | , | Áñ | µ | ú% ð ÁÐ°ÇÁÁpçé ùµ | ð%½ Á% ñçÉçíÁÇÁµ íðúú%
 339 Onkx`kqgh kmfrenh b%ç 0 | ç | Áí | b%çð% % % ð % ú% íúš% ñçðpÁçý çí Áççðð% % % . 0 | Áµçú |
 340 Áú ñð | pñ, ÉÁ | íúí Áççðð% % Á | ðÉ | °Áçí ÉÁÐ | ÁµÉÁ° | úÁ | ý Áççðð% % Á | ý Éý | Á | ½ ý % , b%ç
 341 | Á% bçÁµðçÁÁÐ Áçb%ð | ð 0Ð° ñð | ÁúÁµ% Áççðð% % % . 0çbçý Áúú ÁÐ | p | ú ÁÐ ÁÐ°ÇÁÐ
 342 %Á% | ° | 0%Á | Áú 0 | çšÉý | Áp | ñ%ð%ý Éµð | , Úp, ÚNÚÚ» | oG úðÉíÁÇÁµ Á | Á% , Á%íðí ½
 343 %Ápçð0 | ÁÁpð p | ÁÉÁ | ÁÐ, ðÉÁµ | úÁ | Á%íðí ½ úçíÐ, ÚpñÁ | šÁçðçÉ | Á | | ÁíÉpÁ µçÁÐð%Á0 | ð
 344 Á% % % ð % ú% íúš% (@OSH), ñð | ý ÉÁçý ÁµÁí%ðíÁ | š %Á% | µ | ñp | š ý Éµçí% . 1 ÇÁðÉÁµð%ð | ð
 345 ñçÉÉÁ0 | %ÁÁÇ µçpÁ | ÑÁ | š ÉÁÉý ÉÁ%µ% ñçÉÉÁ | š Á% µúçý ç0 | ÁÁp | ý % % | úÁñ | ý % (Oa, Zm,
 346 Bq, M m, Ed hbt) ÇíðÉ>ÉÁÐ Áú ý Éµçíçý %çý Ápð %ñÁçðñ0 | ÇÁÐ ÁñÉpµðçÁpçñ | ð (@@S), Á%pçÁ
 347 p | ÁÉÁÐ í | ÉÁµ | ð 0°çð% % . 0ç0 | ÉÁ | ðÉ°ÚÁµµ | Úp%0Ú Á% µç í% Áú bçÁðÉÁµð%ð | ð
 348 ñð | pñ, ÉÁ | ý íúí Áççðð% % Á | ðÉÚ ñçðÉ>É' Ú Á% bçÁµðçÁÁçý Áçb%ð | çý , | °ÉúÉBq | Bt Á%
 349 ñçÉí | Á | ý ý ÉÁµ | ý % 0°çðçú% % , µçbçý p | ú ÁÐ ÁÐ°ÇÁÐ . 0%Á | pð 0 | çšÉý | Áp | ý
 350 ñ%ð%ý Éµð | ý % | % ý ð 0°çð% % % Á% Áççðð% % Á | ðÉ | bçÁµðçÁÁÐ Áçb%ð | ð ñçÉúð . 0Ú Úµ | ð%
 351 Áççðð% % ÁçÉ % % ð % Ú ç0É | Áñ | µ | úÁÉÁ ÁÐ°ÇÁÐ . ° ðÉíÁÇÁµ | @OSH Úp%ÁÐ Áú Á% úð>Ú
 352 ÇÁµ, | úçÁµ 0 | , pð µçbçý Áúú ÁÐ ÁÐ°ÇÁÐ (Áðí" ½ úðÉíÁÇÁµ = 1 / , 3 /), Ú µç ÁúÉð0 | Ú ð Áý % ÉÁÚ

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