

The manuscript “Cloning and comparative modeling identifies a highly stress tolerant Cu/Zn cytosolic Super Oxide Dismutase 2 from a drought tolerant maize inbred line” by Gautam et al., addresses an important and timely topic, as the world is progressing, we need better crop varieties to fulfill the yield demand for the growing population.

Overall, the study seems well conducted, however, there are some concerns as specified below.

**Specific comments:**

1. The manuscript seems to be well written with professional English used throughout, however, some sentences in the manuscript needs to be rephrased as mentioned below.
2. Figure 3- “Phylogenetic analysis showing Zea mays SOD2 with other plants species SOD2 proteins from dicots and monocots” not clear what the authors want to say, rephrase the sentence.
3. Phylogenetic Analysis- Line 168- Write “The multiple sequence alignment shows aligning of SOD2 from different stress tolerant plant species” instead of “The multiple sequence alignment shows aligning of different plant species for stress tolerance”.
4. Image resolution of the figures in the manuscript (Figure 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, S1, S2) is really bad and impossible to read. Please replace with better images.
5. The abstract does not explain why the study was done, what is the significance of the current study and what it will add to the current knowledge gap. Please add a line at the end of the abstract explaining the significance of finding similarities between the SOD2 from HKI 335 inbred maize and thermostable *Potentilla atrosanguinea* SOD2.
6. Introduction: Current introduction section emphasizes more on the development and breeding of drought tolerant maize varieties; however, the focus should be more on what is the mechanism behind drought tolerance. It will be even better to add some of the already known mechanisms in drought tolerant maize lines. In addition, there is no mention of thermostable *Potentilla atrosanguinea* SOD2 and its correlation with the current study anywhere in the introduction section.
7. The manuscript nowhere states the purpose and significance of the findings, and how the obtained knowledge from current study is going to be helpful in the future. Please rewrite and rearrange the abstract, introduction and discussion section of the manuscript accordingly.
8. The results in the manuscript clearly validates what the authors set to find out at the beginning which is “Cloning and comparative modeling identifies a highly stress tolerant Cu/Zn cytosolic Super Oxide Dismutase 2 from a drought tolerant maize inbred line”, however, it is not clear what was the purpose of the study and how it can be in future exploited to develop better drought tolerant maize varieties.