Estd. 1889

Research and PG Department of Chemistry
ST.THOMAS' COLLEGE
(Autonomous)
THRISSUR - 680 001, KERALA, INDIA
(Affliated to the University of Calicut & Nationally Re-accrediated with 'A' Grade)
Web:- http://stthomas.ac.in Email:- stcthrissur@gmail.com
Phone:- +91 487 2420435 Fax:- +91 487 2421510

February 03, 2022

Dr. N. Bhaskar
Editor in Chief
Journal of Food Science and Technology

Dear Dr. Bhaskar,

Please find attached the revised research article that I am submitting, entitled **"Development and Validation of a GC-MS Method for Analysis of Dithiocarbamate Fungicide Residues in the Spices Cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) and Black Pepper (*Piper nigrum*)**", authored by Ramesh Babu Natarajan, Ranjith Arimboor, Joby Jacob, Binumol Thankan and me, for publication in your esteemed journal, **Journal of Food Science and Technology**.

The manuscript no. JFST-D-21-01206 was revised considering the comments of the reviewers' received on 10th February 2022. Detailed summary of the changes made in response to the reviewers' comments have also been included in this submission.

I am submitting the required details about the revised research article below, as per requirements of your Journal:

(i) Type of article submitted: Original research article.

(ii) The total word count of the MS is 6551. Number of references: **35**, number of figures: **2**, number of tables: **4**, supplementary material files: **3**.

(iii) This research article has not been submitted for consideration in another journal.

(iv) **Novelty statement**

- A quick and easy analytical method for analysis for dithiocarbamate fungicide residues, which are important in international trade regulations, was developed and validated in spices for the first time.
- The optimized method made use of post-run, mid-column backflush technique and selected ion monitoring in GC-MS to address response stability issues posed by spice matrices, and could achieve a limit of quantification of 0.05 mg/kg, which was adequate

for assessing compliance with Codex MRLs for dithiocarbamate residues for the two spices studied, *viz.* cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*) and black pepper (*Piper nigrum)*.

- Safety evaluation for human consumption was also carried on real samples based on incidence of dithiocarbamate residues.

(v) The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

(vi) All authors have read and approved the final draft of the MS, and all co-authors are aware of its submission to JFST including concerned authorities

(vii) I undertake that I shall review at least three manuscripts in my area of specialization, which are submitted to JFST.

(viii) This article is not part of a series to be published sequentially.

(ix) Consent is given for the publication of this article in the Journal of Food Science and Technology, if accepted.

I hope that our work will be considered for reviewing and publishing in your esteemed journal. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Very sincerely yours,

Joby Thomas K
(Corresponding author)