Review of: "Ethnobotanical Documentation of Yerba Mate in Syria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The topic is interesting, and the collected data can be valuable for further research, yet your report is just a preliminary study with very superficial analyses. Demographic data are not analysed in terms of how the responses depended on the age, education level, income, and occupation of the participants with statistical tests; instead, you provide only percent shares. The analysis should be based on statistical tests (e.g., ANOVA, PCA); ordination methods (e.g., CCA, nMDS) should be used to answer how yerba mate and its uses are distributed among different participant groups. Instead, you rely heavily on indices such as relative frequency. Indices are mere tools to quantify variables. They are a good complement to statistical analyses, but please note that statistics have primacy over the indices. In fact, the relevance of indices can be questioned. As a result, your conclusion lacks the rigour that should be based on statistical tests and analyses.