Review of: "Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-NIR) and t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE) as an Analytical Methodology for Rapid Identification of Tea Adulteration"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In general, the paper is well-written and provides insights into a clear contribution to identifying tea adulteration. However, some aspects may be improved.

- **Data collection process.** I recommend that the authors add a few more details describing the data collection and distribution. Details on the complete sample size and the impact of using borosilicate cuvettes during capture may clarify important elements for the reader to understand the collection settings and the process itself. Whenever it is possible, sharing the data and/or the code is beneficial for the replicability of the experiments by other researchers, increases the visibility of the paper, attracts more citations, and promotes collaboration. Adding an explanatory figure of the whole process (block diagram) may constitute a visual aid for the reader.
- **Future research directions or applications.** It might be very interesting to have a summary of future research directions or possible alternative applications of the techniques derived in the manuscript. For instance, using spectroscopy in other fields or to identify distinct characteristics of other teas or other food products. It may open the discussion to other researchers and potentially suggest further collaborations.