Letter to the Editor on the paper by Diop and collaborators

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In this letter to the editor we question the origin of the figures in the paper published by M.A.Diop and collaborators [1], on line since June 28th 2021 on the web site of *Metallurgical and Materials Transactions B* [https://doi.org/10.1007/s11663-021-02223-5].

The PhD thesis of Kelly Machado entitled « *Chimie des Bains pour l’Electrolyse de l’Aluminium : Étude RMN Haute Température et Modélisation* », which translates to « *Chemistry of molten baths for aluminum electrolysis : a combined study by high temperature NMR and modeling* » was defended October 19th 2017 at the Université d’Orléans, France. The manuscript was available since then and freely available for download from the *tel.archives-ouvertes.fr* server since December 18th 2018 at the following address: [https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01952928](https://tel.archives-ouvertes.fr/tel-01952928) [2]

In their paper M.A.Diop and coworkers[1], are presenting figures that are strongly reminiscent to those of the above mentioned thesis[Figs. 1-8], showing identical symbols, colors and error bars for what they claim to be original new data obtained by themselves. The French labels and captions were translated word for word for most of them and a few extra legends introduced. When the origin of the figures is not acknowledged and the thesis itself not cited, a great part of this materials have been published in recognized journals[3-6] that are not even recognized for their contents even if cited[3, 6 – respectively references 40 and 45] by the authors [note that in ref 45 of their papers the initials and last names have been interchanged].

Considering the extensive use of the materials coming from the PhD thesis here above we not only question the duplication of the figures themselves but also question the reality of the experimental work that is reported in this article.

References


Please find below a detailed comparison of some of the figures...

The legends were translated from French to English with possible addition of lettering and reorganization of the figure elements in some cases. All symbols and colors are identical.

Fig. 1: comparison of figures 1 and 2 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.
Fig. 2: Comparison of figures 3, 5, 6 & 7 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.
Fig. 3: comparison of figures 4 & 8 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.
Fig. 4: Comparison of figures 9, 10, 11 & 12 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.
Fig. 5: Comparison of figures 13, 14, & 15 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.
Fig. 6: comparison of 16 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.
Fig. 7: comparison of figures 17, & 18 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.

With a remarkable color change
Fig. 8: Comparison of figures 19 & 20 of Diop’s paper 2021 with originals from the PhD thesis of Machado 2017.