Author's response to reviews

Title: Antimicrobial activity against oral pathogens and immunomodulatory effects and toxicity of geopropolis produced by the stingless bee Melipona fasciculata Smith

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
To 
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Editor,

The manuscript entitled “Antimicrobial activity against oral pathogens and immunomodulatory effects and toxicity of geopropolis produced by the stingless bee Melipona fasciculata Smith”, which we are submitting a revised version for publication in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine, describes the first reports of the in vitro inhibitory activity of a propolis type produced by a native stingless bee of the tribe Meliponini on Streptococcus.

We made all changes in text as suggested by the reviewer and also we add information about approval by the ethics committee and made changes in the figures, as requested.

We emphasize that: (i) all authors have read and approved the submitted manuscript; (ii) no data that is presented in the manuscript has been previously published; and (iii) no portion of the work is currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Valério Monteiro-Neto
1) Page 7 (Methods) – Line 5: How were the propolis samples triturated? In a homogenizer? Explain better.

RESPONSE – These information can be found in the text. The samples were triturated in a homogenizer (page 7, 1st paragraph, lines 4-5).

2) Page 7 (Methods) – Line 5 to 6: Were the samples filtered through filter paper to remove just the inorganic portion (soil)? There are so many substances that don’t dissolve in this solvent! Are these substances just from soil?

RESPONSE – Samples were filtered to remove soil particles and also other insoluble substances. We know that we can find many substances that do not dissolve in ethanol, but in our experience with geopropolis the strongest antimicrobial activity has been obtained after extraction with this solvent. These substances are both from the soil and from geopropolis.

3) Page 7 (Methods) – Line 13 to 16: What is “Natrusol”? Is hydroxyethylcellulose? The correct is “Natrosol®”.

RESPONSE – Thanks, we correct in the text (page 7, line 15).

4) Page 10 (Methods) – Chemical- characterization section: This section needs more details. The quantification of total flavonoids and phenolics was performed with calibration graph. Just the calibration graph and R2 were showed. Please, describe the residue analysis and the adjust default analysis!

RESPONSE – We described in page 10, 2nd paragraph, lines 14 – 17.