Reviewer’s report

Title: Enhancement of antimicrobial activities of whole and sub-fractionated white tea by addition of copper (II) sulphate and vitamin C against Staphylococcus aureus; a mechanistic approach

Version: 1 Date: 22 August 2011

Reviewer: Alina Kunicka-Styczynska

Reviewer’s report:

I find this manuscript quite interesting, especially because of its mechanistic approach.

Minor essential revisions:
1. Abstract, Methods: The phrase: …"pH and catalase were used to investigate reaction mechanism" is not clear. Please specify matrices for pH measurements and detailed reasons for catalase addition to the tested matrices.
2. Results and Discussion, Levels of copper find in white tea…, first paragraph: Table 1 is cited in the first sentence in terms of levels of copper in the samples but it presents the antimicrobial effect not copper distribution. Please remove the table citation.
3. Results and Discussion, Levels of copper find in white tea…, Table 1: N/A abbreviation should be explained under the table.

Discretionary revisions:
To clarify the presentation, please consider my following tips:
1. Results and Discussion, Levels of copper find in white tea…, second paragraph: Detailed results are exactly repeated from Table 1, which should be omitted.
2. Results and Discussion. The sections: “Antimicrobial activity of whole tea extracts alone and combined with copper (II) sulphate” and “Antimicrobial activity of WTF with added copper (II) sulphate/vitamin C combination” should be put together.
3. Figure 2: Bars describing activity of matrix combinations should be grouped and marked in different patterns, e.g. Cu and Cu+E300, WTF+Cu and WTF+Cu+E600.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.