Reviewer's report

Title: Assessment of phytochemical content, polyphenolic composition, antioxidant and antibacterial activities of Leguminosae medicinal plants in Peninsular Malaysia

Version: 1 Date: 30 October 2010

Reviewer: Ramzi Mothana

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editor,

Dear Miss Puebla,

Thank you very much for choosing me as a referee again.

The present manuscript entitled “Assessment of phytochemical content, polyphenolic composition, antioxidant and antibacterial activities of Leguminosae medicinal plants in Peninsular Malaysia” gives only very preliminary results and the drawn conclusions are not justified.

Antimicrobial activity:

As put forward in the concept of many papers, antimicrobial extracts with MICs above 100 µg/ml are not worthwhile to be further investigated. The MIC-values described in the manuscript are far above this critical value and consequently not interesting for publication.

Antioxidant activity may be present in all plants. DPPH assay is a really very well known and simple procedure however, screening with other in vitro- or in vivo-assays will confirm and strengthen the obtained results.

One can agree with the authors, that further work is needed to isolate the compounds responsible for the observed antimicrobial and antioxidant activity.

As a summary I can conclude that the manuscript gives preliminary data. Moreover, I think that the pharmaceutical relevance is missing, there are no relevant conclusions. Therefore, I regret to judge and to find that the manuscript does not seem to be suitable for publication in BMC Complementary and alternative medicine.

Sincerely Yours
Ramzi Mothana

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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