Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of antiproliferative and antiplasmodial activities of five selected Apocynaceae species

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The BioMed Central Editorial Team,
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Miss Iratxe Puebla,

Thank you for informing us that the peer review is now complete and that our manuscript will be accepted (in principle) for publication in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

We have revised and resubmitted the manuscript in accordance to the suggestions made by one of the Reviewers and by the Editorial. Our responses are enclosed herewith for your kind consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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Reviewer's report:

The changes made by the authors have improved their manuscript. However there are still some revisions needed for considering its publication in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

The modifications I suggest concern the results section:

p. 7: the results of the initial screening are not supported by any table or graph. So, please add "data not shown" and remove the word "positive" in the sentence "... extracts of A. angustiloba, C. gigantea and V. glabra had positive growth inhibitory activity." Or alternatively, remove this paragraph and present directly the results of the screening on the six human cancer cell lines (Table 1).

Response: As kindly suggested by the Reviewer, the phrase “data not shown” has been inserted and the word “positive” has been deleted on page 7.
p. 8: "The index was calculated based on the ratio of cytotoxicity (IC\textsubscript{50}) on HepG2 and MCF-7 cells to APM activity (EC\textsubscript{50})". Where are the IC\textsubscript{50} values for these cell lines? Please modify the Table 2 by adding IC\textsubscript{50} values for these two cell lines and SI values for the most antiplasmodial active extracts. Finally, rewrite the section "Selective Index" with the help of a modified Table 2.

**Response:** Table 2 on page 20 has been modified by adding the IC\textsubscript{50} values of APF activity and SI values of APM activity for the most antiplasmodial active extracts. The extracts are DCM:MeOH extracts of *Alstonia angustiloba* and *Calotropis gigantea*, and hexane and DCM extracts of *Vallaris glabra* which have EC\textsubscript{50} ≤1.00 µg/ml. The section “Selectivity index” is also rewritten.

**Editorial's comments:**

Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals). It is important that your files are correctly formatted. In addition, could you please carry out the following changes to the format of your manuscript:

Author details? Please delete this section after the Acknowledgements.

**Response:** As requested by the Editor, the section “Author details” on page 12 has been deleted.

Please include the full author details, affiliations and address for correspondence in the title page.

**Response:** Full author details, affiliations and address for correspondence together are shown in the title page.

Highlighting/Tracking? Please remove any highlighting/tracking from your manuscript text.

**Response:** All former highlighting/tracking has been removed from the manuscript text. The current amendments are still highlighted in blue.