Reviewer's report

Title: Protective effect of topical Cordia verbenacea in a rat periodontitis model: immune-inflammatory, antibacterial and morphometric assays.

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2012

Reviewer: Maria Martha Campos

Reviewer's report:

Re: 'Protective effect of topical Cordia verbenacea in a rat periodontitis model: immune-inflammatory, antibacterial and morphometric assays.'

Suzana P Pimentel, Guilherme E Barrelo, Renato C Viana, Fabiano R Cirano, Marcio Z Casati, Mary A Foglio, Glyn M Figueira and Fernanda V Ribeiro

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Research article

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? Yes, this is a well-designed study, with clear future clinical applications.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? The methods are rather well-described; however, I recommend to authors to include the number of animals per group.

3. Are the data sound? Data is generally good and interesting. I would like to know why have the authors decided to measure IL-1\alpha instead of IL-1\beta, which is one of the most relevant pro-inflammatory cytokines. Furthermore, the authors are required to Inform the rational for choosing eleven days as the interval of treatment. Finally, the authors are recommended to include the histological analysis in the manuscript.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes, data are appropriately described. One might suggest to present data as the mean accompanied by SEM instead of the SD, as it is currently presented.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes, discussion section is satisfactory and the authors cite the appropriated references. The authors should mention the existence of a commercial preparation containing C. verbenacea for treating musculoskeletal pain.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? Yes.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?

Yes. This is correctly presented by the authors.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? The abstract and the title are adequate.
9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes.

As a general evaluation, I recommend the acceptance of the manuscript, with minor revisions, as cited in the items before.