Author's response to reviews

Title: Antimicrobial activities of the methanol extract and compounds from the twigs of Dorstenia mannii (Moraceae)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor, thanks for sending to me the reviewer’s comments on the above manuscript. All corrections have now been done according to their recommendations. Below is point-by-point the revision made. They are also highlighted in recolor in the manuscript.

Editorial comments:

- Please document under the Methods section the origin of the clinical isolates employed in this study, and whether these were already available or collected for this research. If the samples were collected for the purposes of this study can they please document the details of the committee that granted ethical approval for the collection of the samples.

Answer: These were specimens obtained for research and are available in our Laboratories. This is stated in the revise manuscript

-We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional language editing service. For authors who wish to have the language in their manuscript edited by a native-English speaker with scientific expertise, BioMed Central recommends Edanz (www.edanzediting.com/bmc1). BioMed Central has negotiated a 10% discount to the fee charged to BioMed Central authors by Edanz. Use of an editing service is neither a requirement nor a guarantee of acceptance for publication. For more information, see our FAQ on language editing services at http://www.biomedcentral.com/authors/authorfaq/editing.

Answer: the language have been corrected

Reviewer: Branislav Rankovic

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript entitled: 'Antimicrobial activities of the methanol extract and compounds from the twigs of Dorstenia mannii (Moraceae)' is appropriate for the journal, it meets all the criteria set out in the questionnaire.

The topic is interesting and highly relevant. The methods adopted are correct for studies of this type. Toxicity of some of these compounds could be a factor. This point does not, however, detract from the demonstrable anti-microbial activity. Interestingly the activity is against fungi, Gram positive and Gram-negative bacteria. This is a rather wide range for an antimicrobial agent, even derived from the twigs of Dorstenia mannii.

The paper is well set out and has only minor spelling and grammatical errors.

Answer: the language have been corrected

Figure 1 is unnecessarily repeated twice.

Answer: Dear sir, this was just a problem during uploading of the manuscript.

In my opinion this paper merits publication in the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Reviewer: Rainer W Bussmann

Reviewer’s report:
Minor revisions: language editing recommended!
Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being Published

Answer: the language have been corrected

Reviewer’s report:
1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
R: Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
R: Yes
3. Are the data sound?
R: Although research is important, the results revealed that the tested material is not very promising as an antimicrobial agent.
Answer: no query

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Line 171: Review the information on the MIC "100 to 1000 mg / ml"?
Answer: Dear reviewer, thanks, it is µg/ml. It has been corrected

Line 173: "100 <MIC <625 mcg / ml" it is not clear!
Answer: corrected

Line 182: "good antimicrobial potencies" is a subjective information. Please express values in mcg / ml
Answer: The sentence was corrected

Line 214: "compounds 3 and 8 Could Be Considered the potential antimicrobial drug" By MIC values this claim is exaggerated. Please review.
Answer: The sentence was modified

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
R: There is a need to revise the conclusion that it is over estimated, could be more realistic. Compounds 3 and 8 are not so promising.
Answer: The conclusion has been revised

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
R: Yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
R: Apparently yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
R: Yes
Reviewer: Farrukh Aqil

Reviewer’s report:
The submitted manuscript by Mbavend et al. is a short report on the antimicrobial activity of methanolic extract and few isolated compounds from the plant “Dorstenia Mannii”. This manuscript is written very precisely and needs elaboration in all major headings. The manuscript is a report of antimicrobial studies against various microorganisms. The data generated is a result of a very few experiments or may be just two experiments. Moreover author has used one extracts prepared using methanol and few compounds that author isolated and published in 2000.

Author needs to describe in more details, in Introduction section, the aim of the study and why they choose these organisms.

Answer: Dear Reviewers, this study is a continuation of the work undertook in our research group to search antimicrobial compounds from medicinal plant extracts. This paper reports for the first time the activity of the studied samples on MDR bacteria and M. tuberculosis. This is indicated in the background section.

There are many grammatical errors, few sentences are very long and needs to split.

Answer: this has now been corrected

In my opinion the data is not sufficient enough to be published as full length manuscript and should be submitted as short communications in some other journal.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Reviewer: sumitra Chanda

Reviewer’s report:
Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
3. Are the data sound?
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
9. Is the writing acceptable?
Answer: no query

The questions posed by the author are well defined. The methods are appropriate and well described. The data is sound and nicely presented. Introduction is adequate. The discussion and conclusion are well balanced and supported by the obtained results. The title and abstract are suitable and appropriate for the study. The manuscript is suitable for publication, however it would have been nice if some latest references are added.
Though the work is good, the data is very less for a full length paper. The compounds isolation, structure determination, etc is already done; only antimicrobial activity is done in this manuscript. Therefore, it can be accepted as a short report.

*Answer: no query. Dear reviewers, thanks so much for your comments. Please note that this work was done using MDR bacteria and M. tuberculosis strains. It is a very intensive work.*