Author's response to reviews

Title: Cameroonian medicinal plants: a bioactivity versus ethnobotanical survey and chemotaxonomic classification

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Version: 3 Date: 1 May 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Version: 2 Date: 01 May 2013

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Title: Cameroonian medicinal plants: a bioactivity versus ethnobotanical survey and chemotaxonomic classification

Reviewer: GERALD NGO TEKE

Minor Essential Revisions

Abst

L1 "...there is a rich tradition in the use of..." i think you should rearrange this phrase.

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

L6 the examples given: put in brackets for each type

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

Background and Else where

"et al" should have a full stop at the end "et al."

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

Results/Discussion

compound 88: space out

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

units should be spaced out from digits

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

correct spelling errors throughout the manuscript e.g.: "herpatoprotective" p

hepatoprotective

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

conclusion

L16 However, since......since,... You should replace one of them with a synonymous word/ expression

This has been done in the revised manuscript.
in vitro/ in vivo should be in italic. Verify this throughout.

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Reviewer: Long Chunlin

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript can not be accepted for publication at the current condition, unless the authors revise the manuscript majorly.

1) Medicinal plants are a complex of species from different groups (genera or families). They are, unlike those from a genus or a family or an upper taxon, not suitable to be used for discussing taxonomic issues. The authors should be very careful when talking about chemotaxonomy of medicinal plants from phylogenically different groups. The similarities or differences of chemical components from different medicinal plants are related to their systematic postions, but not accurately. The authors should modify some paragraphs and sentences so as to talk the chemotaxonomic issues more flexibly and scientifically.

The comments on chemotaxonomy in the manuscript are based on already published data, mainly from articles in the journal Biochem Syst Ecol, with citations in every case. Some modifications have been carried out in the revised manuscript to take the reviewer’s comments into consideration.

2) Reference numbered 43 was not published yet. It can not be listed in the
This paper has now been published and is fully cited.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No

Reviewer: DZOYEM Jean Paul

Reviewer’s report:

REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

Authors have done a very interesting work with good results, but the manuscript is little bit wordy because of too long published literature compared to its scientific content; therefore it appears to be a review on the chemotaxonomy of bioactive compounds from medicinal plants in Cameroon with references to plant species and families. Authors should prepare the MS according to a full research paper format.

This journal also accepts such research articles “see Criteria Research articles should report on original primary research, but may report on systematic reviews of published research provided they adhere to the appropriate reporting guidelines which are detailed in 'About this journal'.

http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmccomplementalternmed/authors/instructions/researcharticle#preparing-main-manuscript

This formatting to fit such a “literature” research paper has been done in the revised manuscript.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

Methodology part is missing in this manuscript.

This has been done in the revised manuscript.

What is the significance of figures; they are referred in the discussion.
They have been quoted from literature sources. We did not carry out the physical experiments, but rather report a survey.

Figure 1 contains some indications which are not in the MS language.

We shall have to violate copyright rules if we translated some of the names of the places, which are originally in French in this figure.

ABSTRACT

- Results part in the abstract is missing, however the results presented appear to be the methodology used

The dichotomy between methods and results has been addressed in the revised manuscript.

- The conclusion drew by authors is a common sense and need to be completely modified; therefore a meaningful conclusion should be draw from the data shown.

This concern has been addressed with statistics in the revised manuscript.

REFERENCES

Some journal’s names are not well abbreviated, below are few examples:

- “BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine” should be abbreviated as “BMC Comp Altern Med” instead of “BMC Comp Alt Med”

This has been corrected


This has been corrected

- “Chemistry of Natural Compounds” should be abbreviated as “Chem Nat Compd” instead of “Chem Nat Comp”

This has been corrected

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.