Reviewer's report

Title: Antileptospiral activity of xanthones from Garcinia magostana and synergy of gamma-mangostin with penicillin G

Version: 2 Date: 6 November 2012

Reviewer: Lahcen HASSANI

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Overall comment:
The paper presents the results of experimental investigations on the antileptospiral activity of xanthones from Garcinia magostana and the synergy of #gamma-mangostin with penicillin G.

The paper is logically structured; the technical content is moderate but acceptable. This is a useful extension of earlier works, which needs to be published. However, before the article is accepted, some modifications and improvements are necessary. The authors have to consider the following points:

Major points:
1- There are no keywords.
2- Since the two sections “Results” and “Discussion” are not very large, I suggest they are combined into a single one “Results and discussion”.
3- In the section “Discussion”, while comparing their results with previously published ones, the authors have to acknowledge them by citing all the corresponding references.
4- Some thoughts about the possible role of mangostin in the synergy with penicillin G should be presented.
5- Lines 212 and 213: the authors proposed: “For prevention of Leptospiral infection through skin, #gamma-mangostin or crude extract may be used as a constituent of some products such as soap, or spray to kill the bacteria”. This is not necessary true; the mixture of #gamma-mangostin or crude extract with soap or spray could generate an antagonistic effect.
6- Because the xanthone solutions used are not pure, it is possible that the synergistic and/or the antagonistic effects are rather due to impurities, not to xanthone.
7- Please insert a section “Conclusions” which should clearly and concisely state the main conclusions of the research and give a brief explanation of their relevance.
8- English and syntax are unsatisfactory; they need correction.

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.