Reviewer’s report

Title: Antagonistic effect of alkaloids and saponins on bioactivity in quinine tree (Rauvolfia caffra Sond.): Further evidence to support biotechnology in traditional medicinal plants

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2013

Reviewer: SHAIVAL KAMALAKSHA RAO

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Sample collection, storage and treatment
1. The authors should mention the authenticity of the sample by giving details about: Who authenticated the sample?, Whether a Herbarium Specimen was made?, and collection time of the plant material.
2. For TLC, the ratio of Solvent system used should be mentioned clearly.
3. For DPPH assay, what reference was followed?
4. The authors are truthful about their findings, but, little more has to be established before publication of the manuscript. What are the compounds responsible for the Antagonistic action? Can this antagonistic action be terminated by any means?
5. The authors need to look into the possible mechanism of action of effectively killing of tumors as per claims of traditional healers.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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