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: 15 August 2013

Reviewer: Shamim Qureshi

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Abstract: rephrase the conclusion portion
2. Introduction: i. It requires thorough rephrasing in order to remove repetitions and make it precise and meaningful. In its present state, many sentences deliver the same concept in different words that would put burden on readers' minds. ii. Author is just suggesting that genetic manipulation could enhance the bioactivity of R.caffra without doing any experiment related to it that's why kindly make this concept precise, don't make it lengthy. iii. Author has written aim of study first at the end of fourth paragraph then in the last paragraph, kindly write it collectively or in improved way in the last paragraph so it could be more powerful and dominating.
3. Methods: i. TLC assay: No reference is mentioned in determining the antioxidant activity on TLC plate, kindly add it. ii. DPPH free-radical scavenging assay: Kindly add reference which states that whose method you have cited. iii. Statistical analysis: write it in separate sub-heading.
4. Results and discussion: i. Write results and discussion in separate heads (check recent papers published in BMC CAM), it would remove sub-headings in discussion which are not normally present in this section. ii. Interestingly, discussion has many sentences which are already written in introduction, kindly take care of all these repetitions.
5. Conclusion: Kindly improve it.
6. References: i. These are mentioned in numeric figures within block brackets in text but in reference section no number is mentioned in front of each reference. Improve it.

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