Reviewer's report

**Title:** Antimicrobial constituents of three Cameroonian medicinal plants: Garcinia nobilis, Oricia suaveolens and Balsamocitrus camerunensis

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 16 September 2012

**Reviewer:** Horacio Bach

**Reviewer's report:**

The current manuscript describes the chemical profile of three Cameroonian plants, which are used in the traditional medicine. In addition, authors tested the antibacterial activities of crude extracts and isolated compounds. This work definitely provide new data about these three plants and a potential use against pathogenic bacteria.

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

1) **Title:** Since only a panel of pathogenic bacteria were analyzed in this study, the definition of "antimicrobial" should be changed to antibacterial.

2) **Methods:** My major concern is related to the methodology used for M. tuberculosis. Authors did not mention how they were sure about contamination in M tb cultures, also not sure how they succeeded to obtain a homogeneous culture by using the media claimed in the method section. How the 6x10^6 CFU was measured? I don't understand why a 5% CO2 atmosphere was used. Why 20% tween-80 was added at this stage taking in account that can be detrimental for the integrity of the mycobacterial cell wall?

3) What is the meaning of activation of Gram-negative in line 220?

4) What is the meaning of MHB in line 228?

5) Please when discussing the results of other work, compare to the results (with numbers) of the present study to facilitate the flow reading of the audience.

6) It will be worth to reorganize the discussion part separating a new paragraphs when a different group of compounds is discussed.

7) It is not accepted to use a reference antibiotic when it does not have any antibacterial activity or it is not effective. For example in Table 1, chloramphenicol cannot be used against strain AG102 when the MIC is 512 ug/ml, other antibiotics (more effective) should be used instead. The same in Table 2 with the same strain and also Pseudomonas.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

1) Please check for typos through the manuscript, e.g. Laboratory (L.221), propertie (L. 340), monocylogenes (L. 351), and so on....

2) Reference #9 in line 82 does not deal with antibacterial, fungicidal and algicidal properties of the plant.
3) MIC and MMC should be defined in the text at the first time.

4) The complete name of INT in lines 236-237 should be avoided as it was already defined before.

5) Please define MABA

6) In Table 2, the b as asterisk cannot be found. Also, if authors claim (-) MIC > 512, why in the table they inserted the number when in reality the - sign should be replaced?

**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.