Reviewer's report

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

Version: 5 Date: 17 February 2013

Reviewer: Horacio Bach

Reviewer's report:

I have checked the revision provided by the authors of the manuscript. The techniques added by the authors are still not the standards. For instance, how the glass beads and vortex can dissolve properly the clumps? Authors mentioned that they added 20% Tween-80. This concentration is too high. Authors did not follow standard protocols. There is no way that 20% Tween-80 will be added to a culture of Mycobacteria, this concentration will weaken the cell wall, will modify the profile of lipids, and can be toxic for the cell. In addition, it will "facilitate" the penetration of the tested compounds, so it will be impossible to distinguish the antimycobacterial activity of the compounds per se. According to the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards M-24, which is specific for Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the growth of this bacterium has to be performed in presence of 0.01% Tween-80. This concentration will avoid the clumping of the bacteria and then there is no any necessity to use glass beads and vortex which can destroy the cells and give erroneous results.

Researchers working with M tuberculosis will grow the bacterium in presence of 0.05% Tween-80. I expected this answer from the authors from my first comments.

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.