Reviewer's report

Title: Ethnobotanical and antimicrobial study of some selected medicinal plants used in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) as a potential source to cure infectious diseases

Version: 2 Date: 20 January 2014

Reviewer: Jean Paul DZOYEM

Reviewer’s report:

REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

The authors investigated the “Ethnobotanical and antimicrobial study of some selected medicinal plants used in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) as a potential source to cure infectious diseases”. Although, the study was well planned and executed and the manuscript was well written, it contains a major limitation which leads to it being not acceptable for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The agar diffusion assay is a qualitative non-standardized method that is useful only for the screening but not to evaluate the antimicrobial activity of samples. Furthermore, size of inhibition halos of compounds cannot be used for the determination of the relative antimicrobial potency since a more diffusible but less active extract could give a bigger diameter than a nondiffusible but more active compounds (Eloff J. N., “A sensitive and quick microplate method to determine the minimal inhibitory concentration of plant extracts for bacteria,” Planta Medica, vol. 64, no. 8, pp. 711–713, 1998; Cos P., Vlietinck A. J., Berghe D. V., and Maes L., “Anti-infective potential of natural products: how to develop a stronger in vitro ‘proof-of-concept’,” Journal of Ethnopharmacology, vol. 106, no. 3, pp. 290–302, 2006).

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.