Reviewer's report

Title: Antioxidant, antimicrobial and antiproliferative activities of Anthemis palestina essential oil

Version: 2
Date: 21 July 2014
Reviewer: Zhiqin Zhou

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. A GC-MS analysis of the A. palestina essential oil is necessary to give the general information on the oil constituents and contents. The authors' response is acceptable.

2. In the Methods part, the authors mentioned that “The dried flowers of Anthemis palestina Reut. ex Boiss. were collected from Houfa region”. Which part of the flowers were collected, the whole flower or just petals? Also, more information should be given on the flowering phase and the oil purity. The authors' response is acceptable.

3. In the Results and Discussion part, the authors mentioned that ‘Our findings demonstrate that the essential oil of A. palestina has a substantial antioxidant potential that may be attributed to its chemical composition’. It’s better to test the antioxidant activity of the volatile components of the oil; otherwise, it’s not reasonable to get these conclusions. The same problem occurs in ‘It appears likely that the presence of some oxygenated terpenoids, such as spathulenol, caryophyllene oxide, and 1,8-cineole (18), as the main constituents of A. palestina oil, may support the observed antibacterial activity’. The authors’ response is acceptable.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In Figure 4, more than one exposure period (48 hours in this study) for the cytotoxicity test should be used, for example, 24 hours and 48 hours. The authors’ response is acceptable.

2. Ref 25, “Commiphora Mukul” should be italicized. Lower capital should be used for ‘vitro’. The authors have revised the mistake.

3. Ref 26, “Rosmarinus Officinalis” and “Nigella Sativa” should be italicized. The authors have revised the mistake.

4. Ref 27, “Saliva” should be italicized. The authors have revised the mistake.

5. Ref 3, 15 and 17, the page numbers were missing.
The authors have revised the mistake.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.