Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of antimalarial activity of leaves of Acokanthera schimperi and Croton macrostachyus against Plasmodium berghei in Swiss albino mice

Version: 2 Date: 24 March 2014

Reviewer: Protus A Arrey Tarkang

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript submitted by Mohamed et al is of interest in the area of phytotherapy of malaria infection. The study represents relevant chemosuppression of P. Berghei in mice by Acokanthera schimperi and Croton macrostachyus aqueous and methanol extracts during early infection, as well as the absence of significant toxicity upon oral administration.

The authors did not state any work on which they are building. In this regard, they could consider chemosuppression and survival time in established malaria infection as well as subsequent clinical trials if efficacy is good.

On the whole the English and the reporting are mediocre and would have to be a bit ameliorated; some of the suggestions have been highlighted and comments included on sticky notes for the appraisal of the authors.

Find below the minor essential revisions that should be effected and re-submitted for re-consideration;

1. Methods are appropriate but the description and reporting of the results are poor.
2. The discussion is not consistent and does not really flow.
3. On sub-acute toxicity testing, the Relative Organ Weight (ROW) could be calculated and presented in the results; this could be discussed as an index of toxicity.
4. Standardization of scientific units is inadequate: use mL, 200 mg etc.
5. General formatting of the manuscript; punctuations and spacing.
6. Footnotes for the tables should be self-explanatory and understandable; they should be revised. (Example: Results presented as mean ± SD or SEM; n=?)
7. Referencing should be consistent; kindly cross-check.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.