Reviewer's report

Title: Biofilm formation of Clostridium difficile and susceptibility to Manuka Honey

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2014

Reviewer: Ofélia Anjos

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript by Eric N Hammond, Eric S Donkor and Charles C Brown “Biofilm formation of Clostridium difficile and susceptibility to Manuka Honey” is addressed to the topical problem of antimicrobial properties of Manuka honey. The methods are appropriate and well described, the discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

This work shows scientific novelty. The manuscript is in line with the journals requirements so I suggest accepted with minor revision.

Despite the relevance of the research, I suggest making some small corrections in the text.

I’m not an English speaker so it is difficult to me judge the writing.

10. It is necessary cheek carefully the units. It is need a space between the number and the SI unit.
Example: not 1ml but 1 ml.

There are some mistakes of this in the manuscript.

Replace in Figure 1 hrs by hours

In 2.1 [Clostridium difficile strains] remove the italic letter from strains

In Material and methods (2.4) – “Different concentrations of Manuka honey (1-50% w/v) were included in the experimental setup and were prepared by dilutions with RCM” It is important the authors specify which are the concentrations tested

2.5 Statistical analysis

“The experimental data was entered in MS-EXCEL and analyzed” sentence need correction and indicate the version of the program.

Is Student’s t-test

The Student’s t-test were applied to differences between biofilms formation as function of the hours and also for different strains? This point must be better explained, presented and discussed in the paper.

The sentence “Several studies have shown that the conventional methods of killing bacteria by using antibiotics and disinfection are often unsuccessful with
biofilm forming bacteria [1]” must be modify. If it was several it was need more references. If the intend is use only these reference, several word must be changed or removed

Page 8 – revise sentence: “Our results are also consistent with the findings of Fux et al.”

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below