Reviewer's report

Title: Immunomodulatory effects of Stachytarpheta cayennensis leaf extract and its synergistic effect with artesunate

Version: 3  Date: 7 March 2014

Reviewer: CHARLES Okoli

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. The authors need to establish a link between the two plants- S. Cayennensis and artesunate. It is not clear why extracts of these two plants were combined and studied in this work. A strong justification needs to be provided for that especially since there are no records of combined use of both plants in traditional medicine. Neither did the authors indicate interest in proposing a new use for both extracts. The antimalarial aspect appears to be a side comment. Similarly, the reasons why the effect of the plant on immune reactions was studied are not clearly stated. Studies are not just embarked upon. Something must have provoked the thoughts that stimulated interest in the study.
2. There is need to also explain why artesunate was not studied in the other models.
3. The inclusion of phytochemical analysis using general methods for tentative constituent identification may not be necessary and authors should consider removing that aspect from the manuscript.
4. There should be consistency in the name of the extract studied! If MESC was adopted at the beginning, it should be used throughout the rest of the manuscript. In some places, the term extract was used and could cause confusion especially when two extracts were evaluated.
5. The language structure and quality need extensive revision. Authors should read through the manuscript carefully to identify incomplete sentences and meaningless statements that fail to convey intended issues. Overall, the language needs extensive revision.
6. There is need to separate result from discussion clearly. Statements of the result dot the entire discussion sections as if the results were being re-presented.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests