Author's response to reviews

Title: In vivo antimalarial activity of the crude leaf extract and solvent fractions of Croton macrostachyus (Euphorbiaceae) against Plasmodium berghei in mice

Authors:

Laychiluh Bantie (Seen1000@yahoo.com)
Solomon Assefa (Soltoxic@gmail.com)
Tilahun Teklehaimanot (tilahunmt@yahoo.com)
Ephrem Engidawork (ephrem.engidawork@gmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to reviewers

Dear Editor,

We thank you and the reviewers for their suggestion and criticism. We have now addressed the comment point by point as described below and hope you will this time allow the MS to be published in your esteemed journal.

Rgds.
Ephrem Engidawork (PhD)

Reviewer No.1 (Tatiana Fuiza)
- Satisfied with our earlier response and recommended the MS for publication.

Reviewer No. 2 (Ronana Batista)
- Needed justification for the use of soxhlet extraction as a method of fractionation

A crude natural product extract is literally a cocktail of compounds and can be obtained by using several techniques, including maceration, percolation, soxhlet extraction, decoction etc. However, it is difficult to apply a single separation technique to isolate individual compounds from this crude mixture. Hence, the crude extract is initially separated into various discrete fractions containing compounds of similar polarities or molecular sizes. Various techniques can be employed to do it. These include, among others, Liquid-liquid extraction, Column chromatography, HPLC, and successive soxhlet extraction. Soxhlet extraction can be used to get fractions when a crude extract or plant material is successively extracted using various solvents of differing polarity. Remember, here the marc following extraction with one solvent is dried prior to extraction with the next solvent. Such procedure will obviously produce extracts that have selectively concentrated constituents soluble in that solvent. Such extracts are what we call fractions. One should take note that there is no as such hard and fast rule that says this is how fractionation should be done. The whole purpose is to separate constituents into various parts based on certain parameters such as size, polarity etc. There are various reports in the literature that
used successive soxhlet extraction as a technique of fractionation. Any interested person can look at the following articles:


**Reviewer No. 3 (Dennis Zofou)**

- How many replicates were used and provide SEM

Temperature was measured once daily for each animal (6 animal per group) from day 0 up to day 7. We converted the Figure into Table, as it was difficult to insert error in the figure. In the new Table, N=6 and SEM are included.