Reviewer's report

Title: Bioprotective properties of seaweeds: Investigation of antimicrobial activity against food borne bacteria and evaluation of their antioxidant activity in relation to polyphenolic content

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2008

Reviewer: Savarimuthu Ignacimuthu

Reviewer's report:

Background: The information given in this section is not clear and not sequentially arranged. The authors should give references for the selected seaweeds which have been used by native people or are they commercially available? Of the ten seaweeds the authors do not provide species name for Padina, Jania, Sargassum and Haligra. If those plants are unidentified, the authors should write as Padina sps, Jania sps, Sargassum sps and Haligra sps.

Methods: For the extraction of seaweeds, did the authors follow standard method? Give reference.

Discussion: This section requires more information and the authors must discuss their results with the previously published literatures.

References: The authors have not followed the Journal’s format for references. While preparing this the authors are advised to see the recently published article of BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Table 2: Table 2 doesn’t give meaningful information and values of MBC should be given in mg/ml concentration. In addition, the authors should give the entire tested results against all microbes and their MBC values.

Figures: The figures do not convey clearly the data. There are too many figures.

General comments:

1. The authors have provided some useful information about the antioxidant potential and antimicrobial activity of selected seaweeds by various methods
2. The manuscript should be thoroughly edited especially in background and discussion sections.
3. There are a number of grammatical errors throughout the manuscript. While revising the manuscript, the authors should be careful to correct them. For eg. Line no. 45, 47, 48, 49, 53, 77, 197, 202, 217, 218, 236, 237, 249, 253, 257, 258, 259, 260, 262, 268, 299, 310 and etc.

4. On the whole, the paper has not been prepared with serious application. Hence I do not recommend the paper for publication in its present form.

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