Reviewer's report

Title: Antioxidant and free radical scavenging activity of Spondias pinnata

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2008

Reviewer: José Pedraza-Chaverrí

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

The authors must indicate clearly how they calculated IC50 values for both the extract and the standards used in each assay.

They also have to state the range of concentrations used in each assay and the maximum scavenging activity for the maximum concentration tested for both the extract and the standards.

The authors must give the standard deviations of IC50 values.

The authors must compare with an appropriate statistical test the IC50 values, iron chelating activity, and the reducting capability.

I think that pyruvate is a better standard for hydrogen peroxide scavenging assay and that nordihydroguaiaretic acid is a better standard for hydroxyl radical.

To have a more complete characterization of the extract, the author should test the ability of its extract to scavenge hypochlorous acid, peroxynitrite anion and singlet oxygen.

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors must review all the manuscript to correct minor details of redaction. Below are indicated some of them.

Page 2: 0.7812. The
Page 4: laboratories
Page 5: centrifugation speed must be expressed in x g and not in rpm
Page 6: 1 hour, etc. in many cases leters and numbers are together

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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