Reviewer’s report

Title: Anti-microbial activities of pomegranate rind extracts: enhancement by cupric salts against clinical isolates of S. aureus, MRSA and PVL positive CA-MSSA

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2009

Reviewer: Lyndy McGaw

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

The submitted manuscript displays an innovative approach to screening for antimicrobial activity in pomegranate extracts by combining the extracts with copper salts. The aim of the study is clearly presented against the background of current knowledge, which provides rationale for the study. The paper is well-written and grammatically there are few noticeable errors. In line 15 on page 4, “affect” should be replaced by “effect”. On line 12 of page 7 “turbidly” should be replaced by “turbidity”. In line 23 of page 7, “of” should be inserted between “Addition” and “the”. In the Results, the first line should be rewritten. In line 2 of page 10, “colleges” should be replaced by “colleagues”. In the Discussion the sentence spanning lines 3-6 on page 10 should be rewritten.

In the Methods, more information should be given on how the isolates were identified, and by whom. Were the bacteria classified as resistant according to their in vitro antibiotic susceptibility profile, or by response to treatment in a clinical setting? Were reference cultures stored for future comparison studies?

In the Discussion it should be noted that the MIC values obtained in this study are relatively high compared to those reported for many other natural products. Are these MIC values sufficiently relevant to justify further studies?

In Table 2, a legend could be inserted to describe what the two MIC values are for the column PRE/CuSO4.

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