Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluating plants with ethno-pharmacological record from Darjeeling district of West Bengal, India, for cytotoxic activity in vitro against human cancer cell lines

Version: 3  Date: 5 December 2014

Reviewer: Adel Al-Zubairi

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
In vitro cytotoxic activity:
- The sentence “To solubilize the formazan, 50µl of isopropanol was added to each of the well.” Should be “To solubilize the formazan, 50µl of isopropanol was added to each well.”

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) and phytochemical analysis:
Page number 9; the word “Lieberman-Buchard’s reagent” should be corrected to “Lieberman-Burchard’s reagent”

Results and Discussion:
1ST and 3rd paragraphs are too long and should be reduced into two paragraphs each.
Abbreviations should be standardized as when the whole word mentioned for the first time with its abbreviation and then abbreviated afterward.

Discretionary Revisions:
Authors have screened the 30 medicinal plants randomly for their cytotoxic effects on the three cancer cell lines (HeLa, MCF7 and HepG2), However they haven’t justify using these particular cell lines. In addition, searching for anticancer drugs from medicinal plants should be based on their traditional use for treatment of cancers among the people using them (Do the natives of Darjeeling district use all these 30 medicinal plants to cure cancer?). I suggest the authors to include a table showing the traditional use of each plant or to add a column to table number 1.

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

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'