Reviewer's report

Title: TM-MC: a database of medicinal materials and chemical compounds in traditional medicine

Version: 2 Date: 17 May 2015

Reviewer: Denis ZOFOU

Reviewer's report:

Kim et al. made an interesting attempt to develop a new database for medicinal chemical and plants species of three South Asian countries, namely Korea, China and Japan. It was a great pleasure reviewing this work of important interest in the field of drug discovery and development. The manuscript clearly states the importance of such resource and the description of the database construction is also well presented. However, the following issues should be addressed before the paper can be accepted for publication:

Major compulsory revisions:

1. The title: The title is not specific enough. It could be revised to indicate the localities / countries covered by the database.
2. In the description section of the abstract, the authors stated that information was retrieved from MEDLINE and PUBMED, whereas they further concluded that “TM-MC database provides information on medicinal materials and their chemical compounds from chromatography articles in MEDLINE.” There is confusion about the use of PUBMED as information source. The authors should clarify, especially for a data paper like the present one.
3. The three countries covered by the database should be clearly specified in the abstract.
4. The literature review should be expanded to cover other regions of the world. At the current state it is narrowed to a few countries in Asia.
5. Did they authors face difficulties accessing full versions of some articles? It is highly limiting to narrow the database to papers for which full texts were accessed. So many interesting works may be left out.
6. The authors should ensure the accessibility of the database online and use a more friendly format.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Minor language issues are found in the text. Crosscheck and correct them, e.g. L14 of “Construction and content” section.

Discretional Revisions:

None
Level of interest: An exceptional article

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