Author's response to reviews

Title: Total phenolic and flavonoid content and antibacterial activity of Punica granatum L. var. pleniflora flowers (Golnar) against bacterial strains causing foodborne diseases

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Version: 5 Date: 11 August 2015

Author's response to reviews:

Dear editor,

We would like to thank you for the valuable comments and suggestions. We believe these comments will help us to improve our new version of the manuscript. We have considered each of the reviewer’s comments and provide our answers below. We hope that this improved manuscript is acceptable for publication in your valuable journal.

As the reviewer one requested the following corrections were done

Minor comments
1. The third “and “ was deleted from the title.
2. “flowers” was inserted before ethanol extract in line 4 page 2.
3. “total” was replaced with ethanol in line 8 page 2.
4. “total extract “ was replaced with “ethanol extract” in all the manuscript.
5. Comma was added in line 11 page 2 after (GAE and R).
6. Abbreviated P. granatum was used instead of Punica granatum in appropriate place.
7. TE was replaced by EE in all the manuscript.

Major revision
1. In this study we used the solvent fractionation method for partitioning of the total extract. For this purpose, 25g of the dried total ethanol extract was dispersed in 100 ml chloroform and stirred well. The chloroform layer was separated and filtered through Buchner funnel and Whatman paper. 100 ml chloroform was added again and stirred well. We repeat it till the chloroform became clear. All chloroform phases were added together and concentrated by rotary evaporator. The dried residue was called chloroform fraction. The same procedure was taken for obtaining Ethyl acetate (ET) methanol and water fractions. Table 1 and “Preparation of ethanol extract” section was corrected and
the yield of the fractionation was reported.
2. It was explained above.
3. It was explained above.
4. The ethanol extract was assayed and Total phenolic and flavonoid of the ethanol extract were reported in Table 5. The quantity of ethanol extract was added to “Preparation of ethanol extract” section and the process of the fractionations is explained above.
5. As described in the manuscript (page 12 line 13-15) phenolic and flavonoid compounds are hydrophilic molecules so they migrate to polar solvent (methanol) more better than non polar solvent (chloroform)

7. Table 5 was revised according to the reviewer comments.

Reviewer 2
1. In abstract background was modified, and “In this study, antibacterial activities of ethanol extract of Golnar and its fractions were scientifically evaluated against bacteria causing food borne diseases including Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus cereus, Listeria monocytogenes, Escherichia coli, Shigella dysantriae, and Salmonella typhi.” Was added to clearly mention the use of against food borne diseases is being scientifically evaluated.
2. Results section of the abstract was modified according to the reviewer suggestion.
3. The suggested article was used to improve background section of the manuscript.
4. “Endemic tree in Iran” was replaced by “endemic to Iran” in page 4, line 13.
5. “Several studies indicated that” was replaced with “several studies indicate that” in page 5, line .
6. Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology provides microorganism in both coding type PTCC and ATCC so both of them were reported in the manuscript based on the provider type culture collection number (ATCC or PTCC).
7. “Samples remained” was replaced by “samples were kept” in page 8 line 21.
8. The suggested article was used in section 2.9.
9. As the reviewer mentioned the results of determination of MIC and MBC showed that the E. coli was more resistant while S. aureus is most sensitive .It may be because of the differences in their cell wall composition and presence of second membrane in Gram negative bacteria cell wall.
10. In Conclusion section “Antibacterial effects of the methanol and water fractions on Gram negative bacteria are also relatively similar except for the effect of methanol extract on Salmonella typhi” was replaced by “Antibacterial effects of the methanol and water fractions on Gram negative bacteria are also relatively similar except for the effect of methanol extract on Salmonella typhi.
11. Author Contributions was revised to clear their contributions.
Thank you in advance for your kind consideration and timely review of this manuscript.

Sincerely Yours,

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