Author's response to reviews

Title: In Vitro Antibacterial and Antibiotic-potentiation Activities of the Methanol Extracts from Beilschmiedia acuta, Clausena anisata, Newbouldia laevis and Polyscias fulva against Multidrug-Resistant Gram-Negative Bacteria

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Detailed Responses to reviewer’s comments

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Reviewer#1: William Schwan
Reviewer's report:
The authors have made the changes I had requested.
Answer: Thanks very much!

Reviewer#2: Dr Prasanta K. Bag

Although the authors have improved the quality of their manuscript, I am not satisfied with the following response/s of the authors to the reviewer/s:

“As we mentioned above we do not have facilities to perform toxicity assays at the moment, the toxicity study has been suggested as perspective in the conclusion.”

Cytotoxicity of the test plants’ extracts on normal cells must be demonstrated to report the biological activity, such as antibacterial/anticancer activities of those extracts. Hence, the present study must demonstrate the cytotoxicity test of these plants extract on some normal cells such as RBC etc. In addition, to check the toxicity, it does not require any advance facilities. Simply, they can perform Hemolysis test using human red blood cells to determine cellular toxicity of their extracts at different concentrations.

Answer:
Dear Tom, it is up to you to decide; In respect to the reviewer’s comments, we
carried out necessary revisions; I completely disagree with the referee Dr Prasanta Bag; Maybe Dr Prasanta don’t know that a work on antibacterial activities of extracts can be published without toxicity tests. In invite him to check again the publication records on antibacterial screenings; I am a section Editor in this Journal and as I know, the toxicity tests is not a condition to publish a paper on plant extracts, neither in our journal nor elsewhere; Me as well as many authors worldwide have published a huge numbers of articles in the field in our journal as well as in several other well-referred journals without any toxicity tests; In the present case, we do not have facilities to perform toxicity tests as requested by Dr Prasanta; This work is worth enough to be publish in our journal and we are being publishing many similar works. Moreover, the argument of compulsory toxicity test before publishing, is not scientifically sound, as further studies are still needed before plants extracts with established pharmacological effects are used clinically.

Furthermore, the toxicity study can not be suggested as perspective in the conclusion of a manuscript, which reports the antibacterial activity of some plants. The last line of ‘conclusion’, “Toxicological assays will also be performed to evaluate the safety of this plant.” must be deleted.

Answer: deleted

Still there are several grammatical/syntax errors in this manuscriptsuch as “--taking in account--”; “---could be potential---”; “The results obtained in this study especially---.”; “As results, synergistic effects ---.”; “The best percentages of synergistic effect (100%) was obtained--.” etc.

Answer: These were corrected

Best regards
Prof. Dr. Victor Kuete