Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 20 April 2015

Reviewer: William Schwan

Reviewer's report:

The paper by Tankeo et al. describes the antibacterial activities of methanol extracts from several Cameroonian plants. A potentially interesting observation from this study is the bark of Beilschmeida acuta may harbor one or more antimicrobial agents with activity against multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria. Although there are some interesting findings contained within the paper, there are some problems that need to be addressed as well.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Several sentences are poorly worded.
2. The background information should have a better transition between the first and second paragraphs. Furthermore, the authors should at least reference the discovery of antimicrobials from some of the plants that were used in the study.
3. Somewhere the authors should have a table showing the MIC values of their strains against tetracycline, ciprofloxacin, chloramphenicol, ampicillin, and kanamycin as a frame of reference. This table would provide a foundation for their synergy experiments.
4. Any MIC values above 256 ug/ml should be listed as > 256 ug/ml and considered as negative values for interpretation. A drug company is not going to be interested in pursuing those extracts with MICs > 256 ug/ml.
5. No additional processing of the samples beyond crude extracts was attempted.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. There are several misspellings in the paper.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.