Author’s response to reviews

Title: Inhibition of biofilm formation in Mycobacterium smegmatis by Parinari curatellifolia leaf extracts

Authors:

Benjamin Bhunu (bhunubenjamin@gmail.com)

Ruvimbo Mautsa (ruemautsa@gmail.com)

Simbarashe Sithole (mandlasithole@gmail.com)

Stanley Mukanganyama (smukanganyama@medic.uz.ac.zw)

Version: 2 Date: 27 Mar 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

Response to reviewers

a) Abstract: The English language used in the abstract is poor. The authors were previously asked to modify the language of the entire manuscript. It seems that they have not given full consideration to rectify this issue.

Response: The English in the abstract has been revised and edited by a native English speaker.

b) Background:

Line 1 - After the title word 'Background' there is an italicized colon, instead of a regular colon. Please modify this.

Response: The colon has been un-italicized.

c) Line 3 - …have the potential to reduce the diseases treatment period and… Please correct the grammar in this phrase.

Response: The grammar has been corrected. The phrase is now, ‘have the potential to reduce the disease treatment period …’

d) Methods:

Please correct the grammar of the following two phrases:

…of decreasing polarities in the following order, hexane > dichloromethane > ethyl acetate > acetone…
Response: The grammar has been corrected. The phrase now reads; ….exhaustive extraction using different solvents of decreasing polarity. The solvents used were hexane > dichloromethane > ethyl acetate…. 

e) …Biofilm quantification was done using by staining the biofilms…

Response: The grammar of the phrase was corrected. The phrase now reads, ‘Biofilm quantification was performed by staining the biofilms…

f) Line 4 - Please correct the spelling of 'micro-broth'…

Response: The spelling was corrected from ‘micro-both’ to ‘micro-broth’.

g) Results:

Please correct the grammar of the following phrase:

…minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the extracts were found to be…

Response: The phrase was corrected to… The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of the extracts were found to be….

h) Keywords:

Please see the latest available BMC-CAM journal articles to check how keywords are mentioned and modify accordingly.

Response: The keywords were modified as to the format of the latest BMC-CAM journal articles

Key words: Parinari curatellifolia - Biofilm formation- Mycobacterium smegmatis-Tuberculosis- Isoniazid- Kanamycin

i) Main article:

Background:

Paragraph 5: Please correct the grammar in the following phrase:

'Parinari curatellifolia is from the Chrysobalance family, the tree is wide spread from south, north and central Africa.'

Response: The grammar of the phrase has been corrected. The phrase now reads, ‘The distribution of Parinari curatellifolia, (Chrysobalanaceae family), is wide spread throughout Africa”.

j) There are similar grammatical errors throughout this paragraph. Please rectify.
Response: Grammatical errors in the paragraph were corrected with the help of a native English speaker.

k) Methods:

Bacterial strains, reagents and equipment. - There should not be a 'full-stop' after the sub-heading. Check for similar errors with other sub-headings as well.

Response: All full-stops after sub-headings were removed.

l) References:

There is no uniformity in the style of how references are written. For eg.; Reference 1 does not have the web link. Reference 2 do not have a full-stop at the end. Reference 3 uses an abbreviated form of journal name, whereas, Reference 4 uses an expanded form of journal name. Please check the entire list of references again.

Response: Lack of uniformity in style of referencing was corrected. The web link for reference 1 was added. A full stop was added to Reference 2 since all references have full stops. The journal name for Reference 4 was corrected to abbreviated form, as all the journal names are abbreviated.

m) The entire manuscript needs to be corrected for suitable and appropriate grammar by a native English user or by a qualified language editor.

There are also plenty of typographical errors; for eg.; the usage of 'comma', absence of a standard space between certain words and usage of full-stops inappropriately. The manuscript cannot be accepted for publication in this state, for a well reputed journal like BMC-CAM. Please attach evidence on how the language has been corrected and edited.

Response: The manuscript was corrected for suitable and appropriate grammar by a native English speaker-Dr. Fiona Robertson. Please see the confirmation of corrections by Dr. Robertson below. Typographical errors were corrected and standard spacing was used between words.

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE
Department of Biochemistry
P.O. Box MP 45
Mount Pleasant
Harare
Zimbabwe

Tel +263 4 303211 ext.17145
22 March 2017

To whom it may concern

RE: BCAM-D-16-01468R1

Inhibition of biofilm formation in Mycobacterium smegmatis by Parinari curatellifolia leaf extracts

Benjamin Bhunu, BSc. Hons. Biochemistry; Ruvimbo Vicki Mautsa, BSc. Honours Biochemistry; Simbarashe Mandla Sithole, BSc. Hons. Chem. Technology; Stanley Mukanganyama, PhD

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Prof. Mukanganyama approached me, as a native English speaker in the Department, to read through this manuscript and correct the English grammar. I have done this to the best of my ability.

Kind regards

Dr F C Robertson