Author’s response to reviews

Title: Antioxidant capacities and total phenolic contents of 20 polyherbal remedies used as tonics by folk healers in Phatthalung and Songkhla provinces, Thailand

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Detailed corrections are listed below point by point:

Ihsan-ul Haq (Reviewer 4):

- Chemical profiling of extracts should be included.

Attended: The representative active ingredients obtained from essential oils extracted herbal components of THP-R016 were measured using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). This information has been updated in “Material and methods: Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis of essential oils from some herbal ingredients of an effective formula, THP-R016” section, and the results have been added in Table 5 and the “Results and Discussion” section. Chemical profiles using LC-MS/MS of THP-R016 are not given in the present manuscript because the results are on-going, and will be used to report the stability of the formulation.

- Results of cytotoxicity assay on Vero cells along with positive and negative controls have not been described and should be included in the manuscript in detail.
‘Moreover, the non-cytotoxic effect was observed in normal cell lines when the cells were incubated for 24 hours with THP-R004, THP-R015, and THP-R016. These effective formulas have an IC50 greater than 50 µg/mL against Vero cells, these values were found to be higher than a positive control, ellipticine (IC50 value of 0.68 µg/mL).’

- The results of phytochemical and biological assays should also be included for the herbal remedies prepared by local healers in order to compare whether lab prepared tonics truly represent these herbal cocktails or not.

Attended: Explanation was added; ‘As shown in Table 1, decoction and paste were the major modes of preparation; therefore, the hot water extraction method was selected to mimic these traditional medicinal uses of the tested remedies.’

- Results of TPC seems not appropriate and should be rechecked along with the results of controls.

Attended: The information was rechecked and edited in Table 2.

Kapila Seneviratne, Ph.D. (Reviewer 3):

- Page 4 line 13 It should be Table 1.

Attended: The mistake was edited.

- Page 6 line 6 clearly indicate what control was used.

Attended: The information was added. ‘The metal chelator, EDTA, was used as a positive control.’

- Table 2 polyherbal should be one word.

Attended: The mistake was edited.