Author’s response to reviews

Title: Improved antibacterial effects of alkali-transformed saponin from quinoa husks against halitosis-related bacteria

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Author’s response to reviews:

Point-by-point response letter

Dear editor, thank you very much for your kind suggestion and considering our manuscript to be published. We have carefully checked the comments on our manuscript and tried our best to make the revision. The point-by-point response was provided as follows:

1. Editor Comments:

The previous comment on voucher specimen deposition has not been attended to by the authors. Please note that this is a critical aspect that can make a difference between acceptance and rejection of a manuscript. Authors are encouraged to carefully consider this and other comments raised by the reviewers.

Response: We are very grateful for the editor’s suggestion. It is really a critical aspect. We have added the description about voucher specimen in the Methods section, line 63-69, page 5, as follows: “The seed of quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa Willd) was provided by Mr. Wenjie Gao, general manager of Shanxi Yilong Quinoa Development Co. Ltd., Xinzhou, Shanxi, China in October 2016. Authentication of plant materials was established by professor Zhihua Zhu, crop specialist in Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing,
China. Voucher specimen (No. Jingli-1) is kept in the National Crop Gene Bank of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China.”

2. Ali Al-Ahmad (Reviewer 1): The authors improved the manuscript substantially. The language still need revision.

Response: Thanks very much for the suggestion. We have sent our manuscript to the Wiley Editing Services for language editing. Typical language editing can be found in the Background section, line 45-47, page 4 and line 56-58, page 5; the Results section, line 230-240, page 13-14. Many minor language revisions were made throughout the manuscript. We wish that the English of this manuscript could be well understood now.

3. Oum Keltoum Ennibi (Reviewer 2): References: Please rewrite references accordingly to authors’ instructions for BMC journals.

Response: We have carefully modified the references according to the authors’ instructions for this journal. Journal abbreviation of the references 1, 17, 30 and 31 was revised. The authors name of reference 27 was revised.

4. Other revisions.

(1) Some abbreviations were added and they were reordered in the List of abbreviations section, line 340-361, page 19-20.

(2) Information of funding was revised in the Funding section, line 373, page 20.

(3) Acknowledgements was revised.