

Editor's comments

This article raises some questions.

Firstly, in section 2.2 Preparation of Extracts authors write: "Each sample was macerated for 7 days in different solvents including distilled water, methanol, acetone and hexane. The plant extracts were freeze dried and stored under 8 0C until using for experiments". Comment: Freeze drying method is aimed for dehydration of aqueous (water) solutions only (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freeze-drying>).

Therefore, it is not clear how the extracts in non-aqueous solvents were dried, if the melting point, T_m, of acetone and hexane is minus (-) 94 to minus (-) 96 C, and T_m of methanol is minus (-) 98 C?

Secondly, in section 2.3.1 Qualitative Screening- Agar well diffusion Method, authors write:

"The stored samples were re-suspended in respective solvents and used for the experiments". Comment: Thus, for testing antibacterial activity, not only aqueous extract of *Ipomoea littoralis* was used, but also extracts in organic solvents - methanol, acetone and hexane. However, these organic solvents can kill or inhibit various bacteria even without presence of bioactive substances from *I. littoralis*. For this reason, the use of organic solvents hinders the determination of the antibacterial activity of the bioactive substances from *I. littoralis*. I think that testing results of antibacterial activity obtaining with organic solvents are doubtful and not reliable. Besides, these organic solvents are prohibited to use in medicine for both internal and external treatments of the human body. Therefore, I recommend removing all results with the use of organic solvents, and remaining the results for aqueous extracts only.

Final decision: This article needs major revision.

Author's feedback

For the first issue, it is a mistake actually only the aqueous extract was freeze dried and other extracts were dried by evaporation by rotatory evaporator until a constant weight was obtained. Then the samples were stored and re-suspended the required amount in the respective solvent.

For the second issue, these are the results observed by the real experiment. These results were obtained for several experiments we have done recently. It is may be that the bacterial strains are now resistant to these solvent also (as they resist for antibiotic). Whatever it is these are the results we obtained and I do not agree to remove them. Because aqueous extract is just a one extract we tested out of four and if we remove them the overall picture of the study changes and the quality of the study declines.