

Editor's comment :

Regarding the first issue is OK, because the author explained the drying method of extracts in organic solvents.

However, concerning the second question, the problem remains. If the aim of the work was only to use the extracts in organic solvents for technical applications, for example, for disinfecting rooms, then the study of the bactericidal ability of these extracts would be fully justified.

However, the authors set the treatment of people with these extracts as the goal. In particular, the authors want to use of these extracts "against some pathogens causing gastro-intestinal tract infections". Since the used organic solvents - methanol, acetone and hexane, are toxic substances, could the authors continue to insist that the use the extracts in toxic solvents is justified by high antibacterial activity despite the fact that such treatment can lead to the death of patients together with bacteria? It can be noted once again that these organic solvents are prohibited to use in medicine for both internal and external treatments of the human body. This was the reason, why I have recommend removing all results with the use of organic solvents, and remaining the results for aqueous extracts only.

I see two ways to revise this article. First, if the purpose of the article was to treat people, then all results with the use of toxic organic solvents must be removed.

The second way is to leave all results including extracts in organic solvents. But in this case the introduction and purpose of the work should be revised and changed. Namely, the use of extracts in organic solvents for treating people should be excluded. Instead, the main goal should be, for example, to disinfect rooms of medical facilities, such as clinics and hospitals.

Author's feedback :

Dear Editor,

I really regret to see this kind of comments from you. This is a well-established standard method for screening for bioactivities including anti-microbial activity of medicinal plants. This is the just the initial part of screening for anti-microbial activity of crude extracts. Do you think that crude extracts are going to use for medications. No this is the initial step of a very long procedure of identification and purification of active compounds from medicinal plants. The drugs will not be prepared using such toxic organic solvents. This is a very complicated process which I cannot explain here. If you need to know please refer literature.

If you use only aqueous extract for screening you will never will be able to identify and isolate highly active agents as most of them are effectively extracted by organic extracts such as methanol, acetone, etc. That is why we are extracting a plant material with several organic solvents with different polarities for screening of bioactivities. Then we select the most active extracts for further studies. In addition for

identification and purifications you have to go through a long procedure called activity guided fractionation using different types of organic solvents. During this process you have to use all of the solvents that you have mentioned as toxic to human. These are well established methods for purification of plant materials in order to investigate novel therapeutic agents. Therefore, I am really surprised to see your comments on my study.

I am the main supervisor of the study who has designed the study. I possess a doctorate in research on medicinal plants. I am not a scientist who conduct research methods which are not valid to publish and I already published these kind of research for several years. But I never received this kind of comment before, even from reviewers and editors of science citation indexed journals. Actually I am quite surprised to see, that you are asking to remove the results of the study.

In addition, if there is such invalidity in the study it should addressed by the reviewers, most of the time who are the people engaged in the research in the same area. The reviewers of this article send following comments.

Reviewer 1: This is a novel article about alternative methods of treatment for infections. The authors suggest the use of a plant growing in Sri Lanka. The method has been described extensively. Well organized and comprehensible. The results are in accordance. According to my opinion this paper can be published.

Reviewer 2:

1. State the Statistical Analysis used in your Abstract.
2. Check your Main References; you omitted some references in number 2 to 4.
3. Clarify the use of these strains in your study (*Salmonella enterica* (ATCC 14028), *Shigella dysenteriae* (ATCC 11835), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923) and *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231)

The above comments show that the study is suitable for publishing. After reviewers' comments, how an editor ask to change the objectives of the study or reduce the results. After reviewers' comments editor is there to comment on editorial corrections not on the suitability of the study. If the editor thinks it is not suitable to publish in the journal, you should have reject it before sending it to reviewers. This is utter wasting of time of scientists, as that I had to send you revised versions time to time. First you asked me to remove results as the solvents did not show any positive results. But now you ask me to remove results due to unsuitability of toxic organic solvents to use in preparation of medication. I can see that you are not a person who do not have proper idea about the investigations on active compounds of medicinal plants. Im in doubt about your role as the editor in the journal.

Finally, I would like to mention that I need to publish the paper as it is. If you are not in position to agree for that I will withdraw my paper from your journal.