Maria Divinah Mogaka

Kenyatta University

Email: mariamogaka95@gmail.com

22nd July 2022

Dear Editor,

I wish to submit a research article titled “Evaluation of the therapeutic potential of *Warburgia ugandensis, Prunus africana*, and *Piliostigma thonningii* against *Leishmania donovani* in vitro and in Balb/c Mice” for consideration by the Journal of Zoological Research. I have been referred to the journal by one of the authors, Bernard Osero of Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi.

The authors of the research article include Maria Divinah Mogaka1, Joshua M. Mutiso1, John C. Macharia2, Rebecca M. Ayako1, Bernard Osero3, Michael M. Gicheru1**.** The superscript corresponds to the institutional affiliations as indicated below:

1. Department of Zoological Sciences of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Kenyatta University
2. Department of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, Institute of Primate Research
3. Centre for Biotechnology Research and Development, Kenya Medical Research Institute

The corresponding author is Maria Divinah Mogaka, Department of Zoological Sciences of the School of Pure and Applied Sciences, Kenyatta University, P.O. Box 43844-00100. Nairobi, Kenya. Email address: mariamogaka95@gmail.com

In this paper, we show that *Warburgia ugandensis, Prunus africana*, and *Piliostigma thonningii* have antileishmanial activities against *Leishmania donovani.* This is significant because they provide a solution for the urgent measures being sought to stop the numerous deaths that occur annually due to leishmaniasis. The research provides scientific validity of the herbal plants used by the local communities to treat leishmaniasis and hence, traditional healers can provide scientifically proven medicine to their patients without a doubt that the herbs are effective. Moreover, it will increase the focus of local government, national government, non-governmental organizations, and international research funding organizations to medicinal plant-based approach in the control of leishmaniasis and other related infections. We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for the journal of Zoological Research because it is in line with the scope and focus of the journal; leishmaniasis is a zoonotic disease.

This work is original and has not been published or submitted anywhere else for publication consideration. There are also no conflicts of interests whatsoever. The research was approved by the Ethical review committee of Kenyatta University, Kenya.

All credited authors played a significant role towards the research and preparation of the manuscript. Maria Divinah Mogaka conducted the research and prepared the manuscript under the supervision of Dr. Joshua M. Mutiso, John C. Macharia, Rebecca M. Ayako, Bernard Osero, and Prof. Michael M. Gicheru. All authors contributed towards designing the research, analysis of data, and interpretation of the research findings. They also helped in revising and approving the article for intellectual content.

Thank you for considering this manuscript

Sincerely,

Maria Divinah Mogaka