

Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	European Journal of Medicinal Plants
Manuscript Number:	Ms_EJMP_70485
Title of the Manuscript:	PRODUCTION AND INVESTIGATION OF THE ANTISEPTIC PROPERTIES OF SOAPS MADE FROM THE BARKS, SEEDS AND LEAVES EXTRACTS OF NEEM TREE
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p><i>Major revisions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The scientific name of plant should be reformatted in italic letters as <i>Azadirachta indica</i>. Please correct this mistake throughout the manuscript. - The scientific name of bacteria should also be written in italic letters as <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Propionibacterium acnes</i>. Please correct this mistake throughout all the manuscript. - Why did the authors collect the samples only from one tree? This option may not be representative of the samples since there are some factors that contribute to the plants variability and may influence the results (e.g., light exposure, soil nutrients, water availability, etc.). - In section 2.1, the authors described the collection of barks, but in this figure's subtitle, the authors mentioned stem. The authors need to clarify what parts of Neem plant were exactly used (if it was used the bark or the stem). The same confusion is present in the abstract. Please revise it throughout the manuscript. - In the fermentation process, did the authors used extracts from the three Neem's plant parts or used directly the powdered samples? If the authors prepared extracts, they should explain how the extracts were prepared. - What did the authors mean with "clean and clear antiseptic soap"? I understand that the fermentation helped to obtain a soap with thinner particles of extracts, but I do not understand what the authors meant with "clean soap". Is this process considered a green and sustainable technique? Did this procedure contribute to obtain an eco-friendly cosmetic product? Please, explain it. - The authors mentioned in the manuscript that fungi and bacteria were the microorganisms used. What was the fungi tested by the authors? Indeed, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and <i>Propionibacterium acnes</i> were the only microorganisms stated in the manuscript and they are both bacteria. Please clarify it. - The authors should also clarify this point: Previously, the authors stated that Mueller Hinton Agar was used for fungi, but, in other part of the manuscript, it is mentioned that this medium "contain bacteria isolates". Moreover, the authors only mention two bacteria tested and no fungi name was defined in particular. Please, clarify what were the media used and the microorganisms tested." - How many experiments did the authors perform for each soap sample? This information should be included in the materials and methods' section. If possible, please add the standard deviation after each result presented. - The statistical differences should be added into the Table 1. For example, using letters (e.g., "a, b, c") after the results. The same letter means no statistical differences ($p>0.05$) while different letters means significant differences ($p<0.05$). 	
Minor REVISION comments	<p><i>Minor revisions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please insert a space between number and respective unit (for example, 20 mg/cm³; 35 °C). - After writing the name of bacteria at the first time, the authors may adopt the abbreviated name, for example, <i>S. aureus</i> and <i>P. acnes</i>. - Define the abbreviations used in the abstract (e.g., NSTM, NSED and NLVS). 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The abbreviations and respective full names should be the same throughout all the manuscript as well as in the table. - If possible, please provide figures with better resolution. <p><i>Note:</i> Most of the minor comments are mentioned throughout the manuscript file attached inserted as comments.</p>	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>This paper describes the development of soaps containing extracts from different Neem tree parts, namely barks, seeds and leaves, as well as characterizes the antiseptic properties of these soaps in comparison with a normal market soap. The work subject is interesting and the manuscript fits well into the scope of the European Journal of Medicinal Plants. Furthermore, the title reflects very well the work developed giving an important feedback to the readers. However, the manuscript needs some revisions before publication. I request the authors consider the suggestions and improve the manuscript according the points mentioned in previous sections and in the manuscript's file.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title: The title is suitable to the work developed and reviews concisely the objectives and outcomes of the study. - Abstract: The abstract is short, concise and well written. Some minor revisions should be made. - Introduction: The introduction is well structured and suitable considering the objectives of the study. Some minor revisions are needed. Also, references should be provided to support some of the statements. - Materials & Methods: The design of experiments is appropriate to the objectives proposed. However, more details about the procedures followed should be provided by the authors as indicated in the comments of the manuscript file. - Results & Discussion: The discussion explain properly the results obtained and provides a critical analysis of the outcomes. The authors should discuss in more detail the results, comparing the results obtained with other published studies in literature and establishing a relationship between the results obtained for Neem soap samples and the phytochemical composition of the different Neem plant parts used. The statistical analysis mentioned in the text should be also added to the Table 1. - Conclusion: The conclusion is well-supported by the data. Only small details should be clarified. - References should be carefully revised. Some references are missing in order to support certain statements provided by the authors. The same style should be used throughout the manuscript. 	

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

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