

Editor's Comments:

Check through the text and correct K. pneumonia to K. pneumoniae.(incomplete)

1. The first paragraph in results should be moved to methods. (incomplete)
2. A paragraph about the bacterial collection and identification should be given, such as the results of IMViC tests. (incomplete)
3. A paragraph should be added before the Table 1 and Fig. 1 for explain the results and cite the table and figure. (incomplete)
4. All the Tables, except Table 1, can be combined into a single one because all of them presented the inhibition data and each one only contained little information.(Incomplete)
5. **Comment [D1]:**Please indicate the number and species of the isolated bacteria, and the % and species of the resistant bacteria. (incomplete)
6. **Comment [D2]:** Please specify the common name of the spices and the scientific name of the related plant. (incomplete)
7. **Comment [D6]:** Please give references(incomplete)
8. **Comment [D8]:** Give the gradients of the medium or the producer if a commercial medium was used. (incomplete)
9. **Comment [D14]:** What are the competent cells? Where or how you got them? If they were purchased, you should give the producer. (incomplete)
10. **Comment [D17]:** How to check or verify the transformants? (incomplete)
11. **Comment [D21]:** These sentences are methods and should be moved to method section. (incomplete)
12. **Comment [D24]:** Please confirm this data. Do you really mean less than 10 and greater than 30 mm? I guess you mean. (incomplete)

Author's Feedback:

1. **Response:** corrections have been made.
2. **Response :** The necessary changes to the text have been made.
3. **Response:** The results of IMViC test and a brief note on culture collection has been added.

4. Response: Paragraph is added.

5. Response: Each of the tables, 2, 3, 4 and 5 have different data since table 2 contains information about antibiotic resistance in the used bacterial strains, table 3 contains information about sensitivity to organic spice extracts, table 4 contains information about sensitivity to aqueous spice extracts whereas table 5 contains information about synergistic effect of spice combinations. Each table hence has unique data hence all of them cannot be clubbed. However, we have clubbed table 3 and 4.

6. Response: We do not have this information since we have not isolated the bacteria ourselves but only obtained the pure culture isolates from the hospital. We have performed antibiotic sensitivity test on the obtained cultures in the laboratory. The strain numbers are added to the text.

7. Response: We have added the information

8. Response: Reference has been added

9. Response : The media used in the study are basic media used generally by microbiologists. We have given the producer's name in the text.

10. Response: We have answered the question in the text. Competent cells used in the study were that of E.coli DH5 α (K12) strain. Competent cells were made at our laboratory. The method is mentioned in the text.

11. Response: Since E.coli DH5 α strain as such does not have a plasmid and is also sensitive to vancomycin, only transformants resistant to vancomycin could form colonies on LB agar. The transformants containing the plasmid were taken as those transformed with the plasmid used. The verification was done by testing for sensitivity towards the spices as seen in the resistant bacterial strains from where the plasmid was isolated and used for transformation.

12. Response: This has been done in the text

13. Response: it was supposed to be >1- and <30 mm and this has been added to the text.