

Reviewer 2

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The paper by Tolis Panayi *et al.* describes the anti-QS activity of some medicinal plants that originated from Cyprus against two model microorganisms, *Vibrio harveyi* BB170 and *Escherichia coli* MG1655.

- The authors have performed classical experiments to show the anti-QS activities, with the highest exhibited by extracts from rosemary, common sage, and oregano. The authors have performed multiple experiments to assess QS-related processes, such as *V. harveyi* bioassay, assessment of residual biofilm by CV staining, and motility assays.

We want to thank the Reviewer for appreciating our work.

- Unfortunately, the work does not significantly contribute to the field; all the plants studied here have already been shown to inhibit QS-related processes. There is no evidence that rosemary, common sage, and oregano from Cyprus area could significantly differ from those in other regions, which could influence antimicrobial activity.

The Reviewer is right; all the plants studied in our work have already been reported to exhibit anti-QS activity. However, in this work, we studied plants collected from Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean Sea with unique climate and soil characteristics. It is well known that climate and soil characteristics affect the composition and concentration of active compounds in plants, including medicinal plants (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hermed.2015.04.002>). Therefore, it is particularly interesting to study the antimicrobial and anti-QS activity of aromatic plants from Cyprus.

Furthermore, most published studies use phenol or ethanol as solvents to extract phytochemicals (active compounds) while employing energy-consuming techniques (e.g., soxhlet). In this work, we used “green extraction” techniques for the first time and thus wanted to verify that our extraction techniques yield active compounds exhibiting anti-QS activity.

Identifying the chemical compounds (or specific composition) with an anti-QS activity unique to the Cyprus area plants could be of interest. However, this was not studied in the present work.

We thank the Reviewer for this valuable comment. Following the Reviewer's recommendation, we analyzed the ethanolic extracts exhibiting the highest anti-QS activity (i.e., oregano, rosemary, and common sage) by LC-MS, and their compositions are presented and discussed in the revised manuscript (Table2, Figure 5, and Supplementary Figures S3-S6). We also provided relevant discussion in the Results (LL. 231-239) and Discussion (LL.301-340) sections.