

# Review of: "Is Indian Costus Effective Against the SARS-CoV-2 Virus?"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Author

Your topic of interest is very relevant and exploration of natural products, as alternative sources of therapeutic drugs, is much needed. Unfortunately the work being reviewed does not fully argument the points raised. Targeting a single species in a review is very limiting and does not allow for argumentation of effectiveness of the discussed compounds in comparison to natural products proposed in literature.

When asking if the natural products from Indian Costus is effective against SARS-CoV-2, more attention also has to be given to results from biological assays. Looking specifically at those done on compounds isolated from Indian Costus, against specific SARS-CoV-2 inhibition targets. Adding the structures of known phytochemicals from this plant could also add to discussing possible structure-activity relationships and better convey the presentation of results.

Touching on the subject of formatting, please double check you used italics when citing the botanical name of the species (eg. *Saussurea costus* instead of Saussurea costus). Please note also, when referring to sesquiterpenes you don't have to add a second "terpenes" after "sesquiterpene". I suggest also adding paragraph breaks in the introduction at points where the discussion subject changes. What would aid in this is shortening sentences by cutting at some of the points where semicolons were used.

Kind regards

Wiehan