

Review of: "Yerba Mate as a Co-Precursor in the Synthesis of Silica Through the Sol-Gel Technique"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Waste beneficiation is an important concept and has great benefits; therefore, I think the synthesis of silica from Yerba Mate has the potential to contribute to the body of knowledge. However, there's a lot of work to be done on this article for it to be publishable.

1. Abbreviations should be defined on first use.
2. Trivial information on FTIR should be removed.
3. The experiments have not been designed and/or reported correctly: (a) There is no information on the composition of Yerba Mate or justification for its choice as a source of silica. (b) The conditions for extraction have not been justified and should, preferably, be varied so as to select the best. (c) There is no information on the yield and purity of the extracted silica. (d) Only FTIR has been used to characterise the produced silica. It would be better if other methods like XRF, XRD, BET, SEM/EDS, TGA, etc., were used to make the work more robust. (e) The discussion on FTIR is not robust enough.
4. There are only two references, which is not good enough for a subject that has been researched in great detail.

The author(s) need to rework this paper before resubmission.