

Editorial

I.E. Cock^{1,2*}

¹Environmental Futures Research Institute, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, AUSTRALIA.

²School of Natural Sciences, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, AUSTRALIA.

Correspondence:

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Editor-In-Chief

¹Environmental Futures Research Institute, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, AUSTRALIA.

²School of Natural Sciences, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, AUSTRALIA.

Phone no: +61 7 37357637

Email: I.Cock@griffith.edu.au

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Dear Readers and Authors,

I am pleased to bring you Volume 8, Issue 4 of Pharmacognosy Communications. In this issue we present new research reports examining the Pharmacognosy of several important medicinal plants including a review on the Pharmacological and Phytochemical characteristics of *Pothos scandens*. We also present original research studies on the inhibitory

properties of *Alpinia caerulea* (native Australian ginger) against a panel of pathogenic bacteria, and study examining the effects of *Astragalus membranaceus* extracts in combination with conventional antibiotics. Finally, this issue also presents a study describing the isolation and characterization of a new species of the genus *Pseudomonas*. The authors provided both genotypic and phenotypic characterization of this bacterium to support its characterization as a new species, for which the authors have proposed the name *Pseudomonas laurentiana* sp. nov. The genus *Pseudomonas* comprises nearly 200 species, of which many have environmental, industrial and medical importance. Several species are pathogenic and can cause significant disease. For example, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* causes severe, life threatening disease in individuals suffering from cystic fibrosis. The discovery of a new *Pseudomonas* species may provide a novel model system for studying antimicrobial effects of new test therapies, particularly if *Pseudomonas laurentiana* ultimately proves to be non-pathogenic.

Our regular features are also continued in this issue. The Janus Corner presents short notifications of interest to readers of Pharmacognosy Communications. I encourage all readers to get involved with this section by sending in short notifications of work that may be of interest to your fellow readers, book reviews and letters to the editor. Two more high quality medicinal plant images are also included in this issue and a listing of upcoming conferences and meetings is also included. I encourage any conference organizers who would like to publicise their event to contact me with details so they can be included in future upcoming events sections of this journal. I look forward to bringing you the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications in 3 months' time. Keep submitting your quality research manuscripts and reviews and also consider becoming involved/submitting to the other sections (Janus Corner, Medicinal Plant Images etc.) of the journal. On behalf of the editorial board, we look forward to bringing you the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications in 3 months' time.