Reviewer's report

Title: The rat STSL locus: characterization, chromosomal assignment, genetic variations in sitosterolemic hypertensive rats

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Reviewer: Timothy J Aitman

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Other (see below)

I have now looked at the revised manuscript of Yu et al.

Whilst the authors have not proved that the sterolin-1 mutation found is responsible for the STSL phenotype in SHR, WKY and SHRSP, the data presented strongly suggest, as stated in the Abstract and now adequately discussed later in the manuscript, that the sterolin-1 mutation described underlies the abnormalities in sitosterol metabolism in these rat strains. Definitive proof will await congenic strains or linkage studies as now indicated in the Discussion.

I feel that the most important comments have now been aswered and, particularly in view of the competing publication to which the authors draw attention, suggest that the manuscript is now suitable for publication in BIOMED Central. You may wish to ask the authors to draw attention to the JLR manuscript by Scoggan et al as a note added "in proof".

Competing interests:

None declared.