Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of antiarthritic activity of Strychnos potatorum Linn seeds in Freund's adjuvant induced arthritic rat model - Its Effect On haematological and biochemical changes

Version: 4 Date: 28 April 2010

Reviewer: ANTONY GOMES

Reviewer's report:

1 General: This paper tried to establish the the anti arthritic activity of the seed extract of Strychnos Potatorum in animal model through very elementary parameters. Too many speculations on this preliminary work have been mentioned. The entire write up is very poor and lacks ethical clearance.

2 Specific:
   a) There is no page mark in the entire manuscript.
   b) The title need to be change- “Evaluation..........Rat model”
   c) Short title need to be change- “Anti arthritic activity of S potatorum seed”
   d) Pg 2 : Abstract (Results)- The word normalized to be deleted and use significantly.
   e) Pg 4 : Methods : Voucher specimen has not been mentioned.
   f) Pg 4 : Methods : Why hot water decoction was done at 100 C for 2 hr. At this temperature heat labile compounds will be lost.
   g) Pg 5 : You should check the yield carefully. 22.5 % is too high.
   h) Pg 5 : Intra dermal injection of FCA is not correct. It is intra planter.
   i) Pg 5 : Dose of FCA(0.1 ml) is not correct.
   j) Pg 5 : Animal ethical clearance has not been mentioned.
   k) Pg 5 : What was basis of dose selection? Why only one dose was done?
   l) Pg 5 : Blood collection in plain & EDTA.. What is plain?
   m) Pg 6 : Tissue (liver, kidney, spleen) data is missing from the paper.
   n) Pg 6-7 (Results) : The entire results represented is not acceptable. Less important parameters (BW, blood sugar etc) should be deleted. Expression of data should be more scientific. The authors should consult good writing protocol of manuscript.
   o) Pg 8-10 : Discussion : This is the most poor portion of the manuscript and needs extensive revision. The authors should concentrate on the findings and should avoid too many speculations & propositions.
   p) Pg 11-14 : References- The authors may avoid less important references.
q) Table 1: Representation of data is not acceptable. Express in percentile.
r) Table 3,4,5: Combine in one table.