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: 18 May 2010

Reviewer: Jose Luis Rios

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Major compulsory revisions

In my opinion the figure need a change. As I include in the first version, it is not clear this presentation. It could be more adequate the representation of body weight vs time. To facilitate the vision of figure it could be separate in two and include a break in axis. There are many samples in different publications about this subject. This form of presentation is not of interest for readers.

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I wrote: delete Fam. (word Fam. No name of family): Strychnos potatorum (Loganiaceae).

The right name is: Strychnos nux-vomica L. (see international plant names http://www.ipni.org/ipni/simplePlantNameSearch.do?find_wholeName=Strychnos+nux-vomica&output_format=normal&query_type=by_query&back_page=query_ipni.html

The name of different experimental groups is confusing. Probably authors need to change it, for example: blank (without treatment), control or negative control, positive control or diclofenac group, SPP 28 days, SPE 28 days, .... It is not easy to read the tables without this additional information.

In the answer to referee 2, the authors say that they studied the histopatohological and radiological parameters together other parameters. I think that at least these two parameters should be included together at the new incorporation of swelling values. In addition, the other parameters could be included because they will improve the quality of this study. The fragmentation of results decreases the quality of the paper.

Discretionary revisions

For future studies I think that they could project the analysis of paw tissues and their content in pro-inflammatory mediators, such as TNF-# and IL-1#, as well as expression of COX-2 and iNOS. They are the more relevant mediators and enzymes and they are easy to detect in tissue homogenate.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.