Reviewer's report

Title: Antiproliferative activity of proteins isolated from extracts of Corydalis cava tubers in human cervical carcinoma HeLa cells

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Reviewer: Leticia V Costa-Lotufo

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript described the antiproliferative activity of protein fractions isolated from Corydalis cava tubers. This species had been extensively studied concerned secondary metabolites with actions on the central nervous systems, while the studies with proteins are scanty. However, in my opinion, the manuscript is still too preliminary to be published in the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine, especially if we considered the biological activity evaluation. The authors assayed the antiproliferative activity of 4 fractions that presented DNAse activity using XTT assay. All fractions presented a mixture of proteins, so even presenting the protein composition by Mass spectrometry; it is not possible to conclude which one is active. Additionally, there is no more information about the mechanisms involved in such activity, and also the maximum inhibitory activity observed was only around 43%, that is not compatible with a strong activity.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests