Reviewer's report

Title: Rectal gel application of Withania somnifera root extract denotes anti-inflammatory and muco-restorative activity in TNBS-induced Inflammatory Bowel Disease

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Reviewer: Andrzej Gaamian

Reviewer's report:

The paper concerns studies on the application of plant extract as a potential drug for treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In experimental model with rats, authors studied biochemical effects of new therapeutic application of the extract from Withania somnifera. The approach of therapeutic procedure with using plant extracts is worth to study in order to find the effective drug for IBD. The work has some biomedical practical significance. Experiments are performed in generally accepted form, methods are dedicated to evaluate the anti oxidant activity of extract and its muco-restorative efficacy. However, the manuscript needs thorough revision as it should be improved in several points, some of them are listed below. This manuscript is not acceptable in this form for publishing.

P. 5, lines 2-4 down the page, please improve the style of this sentence, on the standard, test samples, also the next sentence, all should be more clear.

P. 6, the paragraph on anti lipid peroxidation activity should be thoroughly reedited, especially the long sentence .In practice, (a) mixtures containing 0.5 ml of colon homogenate,.The steps of reactions should be more clearly described especially more clear should be defined normal and induced lipid peroxidation levels, test reaction and control reaction.

P. 7, the same as above concerns the paragraph on NO scavenging activity, which should be written more clear for the reader.

P. 7, . was prepared in phosphate buffered saline (PBS).

P. 10, please improve style of the paragraph on free radical scavenging activity. Tables should be included in manuscript also in such a way as figures.

Legends to figures 2 and 3 are not complete, abbreviations HC, CC, WS, ASH, PC are not explained.

Restoration of colon weight is convincing but the loss of body weight could be better discussed. The discussion part is too long and should be shortened.

In general, the manuscript needs thorough revision, style and language should be improved.