Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Croatian propolis on diabetic nephropathy and liver toxicity in mice

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2012

Reviewer: Vassya Bankova

Reviewer's report:

To the Authors:

This article reports on the study of Croatian propolis extracts with respect to their effect on diabetic nephropathy and liver toxicity in mice, combined with chemical analysis of the extracts and in vitro study of their antioxidant activity. The question posed by the authors is well defined, the methods are appropriate, and the data are sound. The discussion and conclusions are adequately supported by the data; the limitations of the work are clearly stated.

Yet there are several points that need to be addressed by the authors.

Minor essential revisions:

1. The authors have to clarify what propolis type they use. Do they know that? Is it poplar type?
2. Page 5, the last sentence of the first paragraph: this is true only for poplar type propolis.
3. In Experimental, it is absolutely necessary to provide a brief description of the methods used to quantify flavonoids and phenolics of propolis. What were the methods applied? What standards were used? For example, there are data about amount of total phenolics and the reader needs to know if they have been determined by the Folin-Ciocalteu method, and if the amount corresponds to gallic acid equivalents. This information is essential if the present data have to be compared to the ones of other propolis.
4. There is confusion with the figures: there are seven figures but there is no fig.7 in the list of figure legends. Further, the number of fig.2 and fig. 3 seem to be exchanged. Please, check carefully.
5. In the tables, the data is presented with two (or three) digits after the decimal point. However, in some cases the s.d. are of the order of magnitude of 1 and the digits after the decimal point are meaningless, in such cases the results (and s.d.) should be represented as integers.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'.