Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term therapeutic effects of Radix Dipsaci, Pyrola Herb and Cynomorium Songaricum on bone metabolism of ovariectomized rats

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Reviewer: Denis ZOFOU

Reviewer's report:

Liu et al. studied the effect of three Chinese herb medicines (Radix Dipsaci, Pyrola Herb and Cynomorium songaricum decoction) on the treatment of the osteoporosis in rates submitted to ovariectomy. The authors concluded from this work, that Radix Dipsaci and Pyrola Herb are likely to be used as alternative therapeutic agents for postmenopausal osteoporosis.

It was a pleasure to review this article of importance in its field. I found the research question stated clearly enough and the objectives well expressed. The methods applied seem appropriate and fully described in the article. Similarly, the results section is well furnished, illustrative and self explanatory enough, to answer the questions posed at the beginning.

However, some important issues arise from the manuscript at its present state:

- Discretionary Revisions:
  1) The sources of the different plant products tested were well described. Since they were provide by established institutions, I understand it might not be easy to tell more about their collection date, conditions and storage. However, this information appears important as the duration and conditions of storage can considerably alter the properties of these plant products.

- Minor Essential Revisions:
  2) More details should be provided regarding the choice of the doses used in this study. It would have also been more interesting to test different doses of each product, unless you can provide evidence that the chosen doses were the optimal ones.

- Major Compulsory Revisions:
  3) It is necessary that the article should be proofread by a native English speaker (preferably) in order to correct language-related errors (spelling, typographical errors, grammatical errors, stylistic errors).
  4) Readers will certainly be interested in having a clear idea on the toxicity profile (acute, sub-acute, long-term toxicity) of these herb medicines tested, given your affirmative conclusions regarding their therapeutic properties. These questions should be anticipated in your paper.
  5) I am of the view that the discussion section of this article should be treated with more details and consistency. You indicated the important fact that the lack of knowledge on mechanisms of action of most Chinese medicines constitutes a
major handicap. Readers might expect your discussion to be extended to possible explanations or justifications of the activities found. Based on previous knowledge, postulates can be posed in case no scientific arguments are available to explain the results obtained. It is always important to compare your results with previous findings and refer to similar works in the field. You may find the following articles and many other ones interesting for the discussion:


The paragraph highlighted in the discussion may be more appropriate in the introduction.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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