Author's response to reviews

Title: Heteropterys tomentosa (A. Juss.) infusion counteracts Cyclosporin A side effects on the ventral prostate

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

We would like to submit the corrected version of the manuscript entitled “Heteropterys tomentosa (A. Juss.) infusion counteracts Cyclosporin A side effects on the ventral prostate”. We corrected the manuscript using all the suggestions of the reviewers, as detailed below. All the corrections are on the manuscript highlighted in yellow.

Sincerely,

Karine Moura de Freitas
Reviewer: Gaffari Turk
Reviewer's report:
REPORT:
This paper is a moderately interesting study and describes the protective effect of *Heteropterys tomentosa* extract on cyclosporine A-induced structural damages in ventral prostate of male rats. The design and language of the study are generally good. In my opinion this study can be accepted for publication after minor revision.

Suggestions:
1- The actual mechanism of increased GOT level should be discussed. – The mechanism of CsA-induced hepatotoxicity (revealed by increase levels of GOT and billirubin) was discussed.

2- With regard to weights of prostate and coagulating gland; the reason of the contradictory, which was observed between the results of this study and other authors’ findings, should be clarified in the discussion section. In my opinion these contradictories are due to the differences in individual sensitivity of rats, doses and treatment period of drug, and also administration route. For example; Cyclosporine A was daily administered by s.c. injection route in the study made by Türk et al. We included on Discussion section information about dose/administration route and period, to discuss the contradictories on organs weights.

Reviewer: Katarina Hostanska
Reviewer's report:
Authors de Freitas et al. investigated the effects of *Heteropterys tomentosa* (A.Juss.) infusion on the exerted side effects of cyclosporin A on the ventral prostate in Wistar rats. Aim of the study was clearly defined and experimental methods adequate.

However, discussion and conclusion need to be revised in relation to the observed results.
Authors could clear show the differences in the level of GOT, triglycerides and glucose which were normalized in group of animals treated with (CsA+Ht).

There are controversy data about the effect of CsA at same dosage as applied in the present study on GOT. In the present study GOT level was increased in CsA group, while another research group did not observe this effect. However, increased bilirubin and cholesterol level could not be normalized by (CsA+Ht) co-application.

In summary: from 5 plasmic parameters 2 could be normalized, 2 were also increased in animals treated with combination of CsA and Ht in comparison to control group – no change. Normalisation of GOT level is controversy. Is the finding of normalisation of GOT by Ht new one? In the studies regarding the increased GOT level and CsA, which doses were used? The discussion about GOT levels was rewritten and information about the CsA dose used in the studies cited was included.

In section results authors e.g. used lower, higher, but not significant and/or values. It is necessary to document these interpretations with values and p. – The p values for the parameters with significant difference were included in the Results section.

Results part is not discussion. – We added information in the discussion.

The results of biometrical parameters, stereology and morphology showed some weak protections.

Figures: adequate

Conclusions: Should be sounded with results. Limitations of this study should be mentioned.

Finally, the Abstract should be re-writed. – The abstract was rewritten.

Methods: Which dose of Ht extract was compared to which dose of CsA?
The dose of CsA and *Heteropterys tomentosa* were chosen according to information found in the literature. [1-6]

Results: values, significance of altered parameters. – The p values for the parameters with significant difference were included in the Results section.

Conclusions:...possible protective action of Ht on ventral prostate tissue,....alteration of hepatotoxic plasmic biochemical parameters – This section was rewritten.
References: