Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2012

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 clearly show the differences in the level of GOT, triglycerides and glucose which were normalized in group of animals treated with (CsA+Ht).

There are controversial data about the effect of CsA at the 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 plasma 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 controversial. 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?

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. Results part is not discussion.

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

Figures: adequate

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

Finally, the Abstract should be re-written.
Methods: Which dose of Ht extract was compared to which dose of CsA?
Results: values, significance of altered parameters.
Conclusions: possible protective action of Ht on ventral prostate tissue, alteration of hepatotoxic plasmic biochemical parameters

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.