Reviewer's report

Title: Morus alba L. suppresses the development of atopic dermatitis induced by the house dust mite in NC/Nga mice

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Reviewer: Yogendra Nayak

Reviewer's report:

The plant material used Morus alba, There are literature of pollens of the plant Morus alba, causes contact urticaria. The same plant has lot of anti-inflammatory activity or immune-modulatory activity as well. That means the plant has many components which balances the biology as holistic approach. The findings of this manuscript are acceptable for publication. But, there are some modification/clarification required by the authors.

The abbreviations must be mentioned when they first appear in the text, many times the abbreviations are repeating, but these might not be a significant error for the work contribution to upgrade the knowledge. I think the manuscript has to be rechecked for this type of smaller errors.

I was wondering what is called as Protopic, later I found it is a brand and the active constituent is tacrolimus. It is ideal to use the generic name than the brand.

In the in vivo studies there might be some error in quantification of doses, for example, Tacrolimus is used in very high dose 50 mg, in 1% ointment. What is the justification for this dose? The solvent (ethanol) was just 200 microliters. Similarly, if the 70% ethanol is used as solvent, the solvent might have interaction with the activity, it might enhance the absorption of the compounds or the extract which is not happening in ideal condition where the ointment bases will not have ethanol.

Ideally the extract should have made into ointment and its stability should have been assessed and that would have been the ideal proof of concept in animal models.

The scoring (EASI values) should have been blinded or double blinded during the study. Solely because the investigator might have influence on his positive findings. But again, looking at the histopathological and physical examination it is clear that the extract has significant protection of atopic dermatitis.

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'