Reviewer's report

Title: Rhizoma polygoni cuspidati extract reduced progression of diabetic nephropathy via inhibition of platelet-derived growth factor-BB (PDGF-BB) and its receptor interaction in streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats

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Reviewer: Karim Raafat

Reviewer's report:

Major:
1. The statement: "albuminuria is well characterized in the streptozotocin (STZ)-induced diabetic animal model", still needs more emphasis and reference.
2. In the title the authors mentioned rhizomes of the plant and in the aim of the work they mentioned roots. Did the authors use rhizomes or roots?
3. The statement: "no difference in body weight between the vehicle-treated diabetic rats and PCE-treated diabetic rats.", is this an indication that the extract is inactive. Please clarify as metformin has an other mechanism of reduction of BGL other than mentioned?
4. In table (1), apparently the PCE is inactive towards diabetes. Please clarify showing why the authors used type I model for a type II study?
5. How did the authors measure the albuminuria in more details?
6. Figure 5 is not completely clear and need more metrical and scientific illustration.
7. The results and discussion sections need to be more detailed and clear.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

no conflict of interest.