Reviewer’s report

Title: Pretreatment of Gymnema sylvestre revealed the protection against acetic acid-induced ulcerative colitis in rats

Version: 2 Date: 27 December 2013

Reviewer: Farrukh Afaq

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, the authors have evaluated the preventative activities of Gymnema sylvestre (GS) leaves extract against acetic acid (AA)-induced ulcerative colitis in Wistar rats. The data presented here demonstrate that treatment of rat with GS inhibited AA-induced TBARS production and restored the level of T-GSH, NP-SH, SOD and CAT compared to control animals. In addition, GS treatment inhibited AA-induced reduction in DNA, RNA and TP levels. Furthermore, GS treatment attenuated AA-induced elevation of pro-inflammatory cytokines, PGE2 and NO levels. This is an interesting study and the experiments appear to be well-planned and conducted. There are some minor concerns which are listed below:

1) It is not clear whether mesalazine was given once to mice or for seven days.
2) The rationale of GS doses used in this study is not discussed.
3) The authors should discuss the results section with different headings based on the parameters analyzed.
4) It would be helpful if the authors could comment on whether the concentrations of GS used in the experiments are achievable in humans through dietary consumption.
5) The manuscript contains grammatical errors and should be checked for English language.

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'