Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of camptothecin derivatives and topoisomerase dual inhibitors on Trypanosoma cruzi growth and ultrastructure

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Reviewer: Juan B Rodriguez

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The manuscript entitled “Effects of camptothecin derivatives and topoisomerase dual inhibitors on Trypanosoma cruzi growth and ultrastructure” by A. Araujo Zuma, O. Kischlat Lacombe, C. C. Silva, W. de Souza and M. C. Machado Motta describes the biological evaluation of some topoisomerase inhibitors such as topotecan, irinotecan, baicalein, luteolin and evodiamine against Trypanosoma cruzi (epimastigotes) growth and the parasite ultrastructural changes. This compounds exhibit a modest action against epimastigotes of T. cruzi.

There are some minor points should be addressed prior to publication:

The following statement seems to be truncated and should be rephrased: “Interestingly, many topoisomerase inhibitors are natural products extracted from plants, such as camptothecin, isolated from Camptotheca accuminata, and several alkaloids.”

I disagree with the following statement “Differently, these compounds presented considerably high IC50 values and therefore were not tested against intracellular forms” how do the authors know that these compounds will not be effective against the intracellular form of the parasite. There are many examples where compounds that exhibit vanishing action against epimastigotes are effective inhibitors of amastigotes proliferation and vice versa. Therefore, this statement should be eliminated.

Authors should mention the source of the topoisomerase inhibitors.