Reviewer's report

Title: A mouse model of sitosterolemia; absence of Abcg8/sterolin-2 results in failure to secrete biliary cholesterol

Version: 2 Date: 11 December 2003

Reviewer: Gerd Schmitz

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript shows that Abcg8/sterolin-2 deficient mice develop a sitosterolemia phenotype consistent with the human disease. Interestingly, these mice display a disturbed ability to secrete cholesterol into bile but still effectively export plant sterols into bile.

The subject of the manuscript is of high importance and complements the previous work on Abcg5/Abcg8 knockout mouse models.

The paper is well written and the results presented support the conclusions made by the authors.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
Figure 4a) Although incorporated in the text, the authors should include in the figure, whether the measured mRNA expression levels of the 10 genes analyzed differ with statistical significance in the three mouse groups.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
None

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:
None