Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of Anti-inflammatory and Gastric Anti-ulcer Activity of Phyllanthus niruri L. (Euphorbiaceae) Leaves in Experimental Rats

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Author’s response to reviews:

Date:

03 Nov 2016

To:

"Rayhana Begum" rayhana_kushum78@yahoo.com

From: "BMC Complementary & Alternative Medicine - Editorial Office" bmccomplementalternmed@biomedcentral.com
Subject:
Your submission to BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine - BCAM-D-16-00714

Attachment(s):
BCAM-D-16-00714 Complimentary medicine.pdf
BMC COMPLIMENTARY Figures.doc
Comments and corrections on the BMC.doc

BCAM-D-16-00714

Evaluation of Anti-inflammatory and Gastric Anti-ulcer Activity of Phyllanthus niruri L. (Euphorbiaceae) Leaves in Experimental Rats

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BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Dr., Begum,

Your manuscript "Evaluation of Anti-inflammatory and Gastric Anti-ulcer Activity of Phyllanthus niruri L. (Euphorbiaceae) Leaves in Experimental Rats" (BCAM-D-16-00714) has been assessed by our reviewers. They have raised a number of points which we believe would improve the manuscript and may allow a revised version to be published in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Their reports, together with any other comments, are below. Please also take a moment to check our website at
for any additional comments that were saved as attachments. Please note that as BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine has a policy of open peer review, you will be able to see the names of the reviewers.

If you are able to fully address these points, we would encourage you to submit a revised manuscript to BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Once you have made the necessary corrections, please submit online at:

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Please also ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style, which can be found at the Instructions for Authors on the journal homepage.

A decision will be made once we have received your revised manuscript, which we expect by 03 Dec 2016.

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I look forward to receiving your revised manuscript and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Tom

Tom Rowles PhD
Editor
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine
http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmccomplementalternmed/
Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #1: This manuscript describes testing of leaf extracts of the widely distributed species Phyllanthus niruri for anti-inflammatory activity and gastro-protective effects. The assays used are the carrageenan-induced paw oedema model and ethanol-induced gastric mucosal injury in rats. A simple chemical screening analysis was also conducted, although the methods for the chemical analysis are not clearly described.

1) While some significant activity is certainly demonstrated, and several classes of compounds were detected in the extracts, my main concern was the lack of information presented in the manuscript on what this study adds to the work that has already been published in the literature on the activity of this plant species.

As presented in the Introduction (page 4 line 21-35) there have already been studies of the chemical constituents of this plant species, a standardised extract of the plant has been shown to have anti-inflammatory activity in carrageenan-induced paw oedema model (reference 12) and a leaf extract has shown activity in reducing ethanol-induced gastric mucosal injury in rats (reference 14).

There is no explanation of what this study adds to the existing literature.

- Is the plant known to have chemical variability over its distribution range?

- Was the study aimed at examining the species grown in Bangladesh and correlating it with traditional usage in that country?
2) There was also a lack of comparison of the results found in this study with the previous studies in the Discussion section

3) In the methods section- the methods for the "Phytochemical analysis", histological examination and preparation of tissues for the scoring of gastric ulcers were not clearly described. For the extraction method, how was the "coarse powder" produced?

4) In the results - scale bars are needed on Fig 2-4

5) there are a number of places where the methods are presented in the future tense (e.g In the section Induction of ulcer, line 36 and line 49 … "Scoring of ulcer will be made as follows". "Will be expressed as ulcer index" This needs to be in the past tense.

Reviewer #2: Dear author,

Comments and corrections on the manuscript were made using "sticky note"

Corrections on the figures:

Figure 1: There was no explanation or reference to the figures; 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 1F made on the manuscript. There were no arrows on the figures to indicate physiological changes on the paw oedema.
Figure 2: each figure; A, B, C, D, E, F should have a self explanatory sentence about it, with a letter or arrow on the figure indicating the physiological changes or observations that took place eg. "Migration of numerous inflammatory cells (I) throughout the section is observed" "I" is placed on the area in question.

Figure 3: There should be a self explanatory sentence about each figure; A, B, C, D, E, F, with a letter or arrow on the figure indicating any physiological changes that occurred.

Figure 4: The letters G, H, I, J, K, L used to describe the figures in the manuscript do not correspond with the letters representing the individual figures. There is no indication on the figures using arrow to show the changes that took place.

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Declarations

- Ethics approval and consent to participate

- Consent to publish

- Availability of data and materials

- Competing interests

- Funding

- Authors' Contributions
- Acknowledgements

- Authors' Information