Reviewer's report

Title: Neoboutonia melleri var velutina Prain: in vitro and in vivo hepatoprotective effects of the aqueous stem bark extract on acute hepatitis models

Version: 0 Date: 13 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Hsiu-Mei Chiang

Reviewer's report:

This work aimed to evaluate the hepatoprotective properties of Neoboutonia velutina. The results indicated that the extract significantly decreased proinflammatory cytokine expression and protected the mice from carbon tetrachloride-induced liver injury.

1. This work aimed to evaluate the hepatoprotective properties of Neoboutonia velutina. However, many similar researches have been reported for such natural products or various physiologically active substances (polyphenols etc.) contained therein. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify the differences from previous reports.

2. Only 10 µg/mL Neoboutonia velutina extract significantly inhibited TNFα and IL-8, but not 1 and 100µg/mL. Authors have to explain their results and compare to other studies.

3. The study applied several models to detect the components in the Neoboutonia velutina extract; however, which one was the major contributor to the effect of this plant on hepatoprotective properties still unclear. This work must study more in-depth.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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