Reviewer’s report

Title: Herbal compound 861 prevents hepatic fibrosis by inhibiting the TGF-β1/Smad/SnoN pathway in bile duct-ligated rats

Version: 0 Date: 31 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Jorge Eugenio Moreno Cuevas

Reviewer's report:
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Review of the article: "Herbal compound 861 prevents hepatic fibrosis by inhibiting TGF-β1/Smad/SnoN pathway in Bile Duct-Ligated Rats"

A well planned and interesting report assessing anti-fibrotic properties of a natural/herbal compound. The subject is relevant aimed at seeking new therapeutic options for individuals suffering for this kind of conditions that has reached pandemic proportions.
Clear ideas, good experimental approach, good atatistics, solid conclusions.

MAJOR ISSUE:
EXTENSIVE EDITING OF THE WRITING IS REQUIRED BEFORE PUBLICATION

MINOR ISSUES:
if you could please expand in order to make a stronger connection between the compound ingredients and the assigned effects; how did the owner of the compound came about with the formula?. More specificity about the relations between the herbs included in the formula and what is known about their effect on the liver
If you could expand about having protein over-expression without changes in corresponding mRNA; like the one observed between BDL and increase in SnoN protein with no mRNA changes

**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?**
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**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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