Reviewer's report

Title: Crude extract from Libidibia ferrea Linn leaves decreased intra articular inflammation induced by zymosan in rats

Version: 2 Date: 31 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Md. Moniruzzaman

Reviewer's report:

I am very glad getting the opportunity to revise the manuscript untitled "Crude extract from Libidibia ferrea Linn leaves decreased intra articular inflammation induced by zymosan in rats". In my opinion, this paper has some major issues need clarification and improvement to be published in "BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine". Please find below a list of suggestions that should be carefully addressed.

1. In abstract, authors mentioned "Cell counts, histopathological analysis, and inflammatory cytokines in tissue (IL1-β and TNF-α) were performed by Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay". It seems ELISA was performed for all experimental measurements including cell counts and histology. Authors are suggested to breakdown the sentences to avoid complexity. Moreover, as mentioned earlier, the authors did not pay attention on the complex sentences as depicted in the result section of the abstract (line 65-69), discussion (line 415-420, 421-427, 432-435, 445-449, 452-456, 461-465).

2. Authors should explain the "popular medicine". Is it traditional medicine or something else? In addition, which parts/form of this plant (decoction, solvent extract) are being used in the traditional medicine also need to include in the introduction.

3. Authors also mentioned the plant interferes with the intrinsic pathways and targets(?) to show its anticancer activities. These are vague information. Authors should mention which intrinsic pathways are involved in and what are the specific targets that are being affected by the treatment.

4. It is necessary to specify two/one-way ANOVA in the figure legends rather in reviewer response.

5. Does the plant used to treat rheumatoid arthritis in traditional medicine? Authors should expand the traditional basis with available information.
6. As mentioned earlier, authors did not correct the incomplete sentences as depicted in line 435,

7. Authors should explain the possible reasons why the extract did not show any dose-dependent effects. Is it due to their technical errors, degradation of the extract components, or anything else? How can these could be improved?

8. As mentioned in line 474-477, which particular part of this study corroborate with the clinical findings? Does this extract already been evaluated against rheumatoid arthritis?

9. Authors should correct the sentence "line: 480-481".

10. Flow and linking between results and discussion are missing.

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

NA

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal