Reviewer’s report

Title: A botanical from the antiproliferative Cameroonian spice, Imperata cylindrica is safe at lower doses, as demonstrated by oral acute and sub-chronic toxicity screenings.

Version: 2 Date: 03 Jun 2020

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
No - there are major issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Maybe - with major revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Authors replied to all comments of the revision.
Comment 1) reply acceptable

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
Comment 2) the answer is not really convincing; just because previous studies were done with roots - apparently solid studies with leaves are available - and most people use roots is a fact but lacks scientific novelty and improvement; for sustainable production is much easier to use leaves as a source of the drug without destroying the plant if is has - as stated - the same activity. For a
good experimental design it would have been useful to include leaf extracts too. Regarding extraction, a water extract is much easier and environmentally friendly, so again why was a methanol extract used although authors ensure a methanol-free extract. Is much greener, easier and cheaper extraction and at least it should have been used as a control!!

Comments 3 to 8) apparently the correction were done;
Comments 9 to 10) not exhaustive but acceptable

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
NO

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

No

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

No

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

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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.

This reviewer has been recruited by a partner organization, Research Square. Reviewers with declared or apparent competing interests are not utilized for these reviews. This reviewer has agreed to publication of their comments online under a Creative Commons Attribution License attributed to Research Square and was paid a small honorarium for completing the review within a specified timeframe. Honoraria for reviews such as this are paid regardless of the reviewer recommendation.

**Reviewer Publication Consent.** 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) if this manuscript is accepted for publication. Any comments that I do not wish to be included in the published report have been included as confidential comments to the editor, which will not be published. If you are not happy for us to publish this report, please contact the editorial office before completing the review. If you wish, you can include your name in your published report. Please note you must decide whether to include your name at the start of the process and confirm this decision whenever prompted. If you change your decision later, we will not be able to publish your name.

I agree to the terms of the CC-BY 4.0 license; please do not publish my name with my report. (default)