

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 54190

**Title:** Hepatoprotective effects of Hovenia dulcis seeds against alcoholic liver injury and related mechanisms investigated via network pharmacology

**Reviewer's code:** 01172530

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** FACC, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Germany

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-03-04

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-09 01:24

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-24 03:28

**Review time:** 15 Days and 2 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting study of *H. dulcis* antioxidant activity, evaluate its effects against ALD, and investigate the related mechanisms via network pharmacology. ALD can start with alcoholic liver injury, develop into alcohol-induced hepatitis and/or steatosis, and progress to fibrosis and/or cirrhosis; ALD can even lead to liver cancer. Given the poor prognosis and the limited efficacy of current treatments for ALD, it would be more effective to prevent liver disease progression at the very beginning rather than to treat advanced conditions. Certain parts of *H. dulcis* exhibit various health effects. Namely, the peduncles of *H. dulcis* showed antioxidant and immunostimulatory effects, its fruit or stem showed antidiabetic effects through the AMPK pathway, and the root could prevent proliferation of HSC-T6 cells. However, the effects and/or mechanisms of action of *H. dulcis* seeds on ALD have not been fully illustrated. In this study, Meng et al determined the antioxidant activities of *H. dulcis* seeds, and assessed the total phenol content, total flavonoid content and polysaccharide content. The study is well designed and the results are very interesting. Comments: 1 Title. Does the title reflect the main subject/hypothesis of the manuscript? Yes. 2 Abstract. Does the abstract summarize and reflect the work described in the manuscript? Yes. 3 Key words. Do the key words reflect the focus of the manuscript? Yes. 4 Background. Does the manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study? Yes. The introduction is reasonable, and the references in this section are ok. 5 Methods. Does the manuscript describe methods (e.g., experiments, data analysis, surveys, and clinical trials, etc.) in adequate detail? Yes. The methods are very clear, and in detail. Animal experiment design are good, and the biochemical and histopathologic examinations are very detail. 6 Results. The results are very informative. Tables and figures are excellen. And the results were discussed with updated references. 7 Manuscript is very well

written. Please take attention to the abbreviations. And some minor language polishing should be edited.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 54190

**Title:** Hepatoprotective effects of Hovenia dulcis seeds against alcoholic liver injury and related mechanisms investigated via network pharmacology

**Reviewer's code:** 01630494

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MBBS, MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer, Senior Research Fellow

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United States

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-03-04

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-09 01:23

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-26 02:43

**Review time:** 17 Days and 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Very interesting study. This study is very well written, results are interesting.  
Manuscript requires a minor editing.

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 54190

**Title:** Hepatoprotective effects of Hovenia dulcis seeds against alcoholic liver injury and related mechanisms investigated via network pharmacology

**Reviewer's code:** 02444949

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** DA, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-03-04

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jie Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-16 09:54

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-26 10:35

**Review time:** 10 Days

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** bpgoffice@wjgnet.com  
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

Authors studied the hepatoprotective effects of Hovenia dulcis seed water extract (HWE) on acute alcohol-induced liver injury in mice and conducted network pharmacology. They showed that HWE had in vitro (FRAP, TEAC) and in vivo antioxidant activity (SOD, CAT, GSH etc.) and reduced hepatic lipid and hepatotoxicity. In addition, they suggested the related mechanism via analysis of network pharmacology. The manuscript contains interesting data; however, the following points should be considered in the revised version. 1. What is the reason for the dose you used in the experiment? Could please mention in methods section. 2. In this study, the HWE were fed to mice for 7days. How do you predict toxicity when fed it for long time? 3. Authors addressed in vitro antioxidant experiment (method and discussion) in detail; however, the data did not present in table or figure, only it was written in result section. 4. Please avoid repeat the results in discussion section. The discussion should be lessened to focus the mechanism.