



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

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

**Manuscript NO:** 52399

**Title:** Tamarix Chinensis Lour Inhibits Chronic Ethanol-Induced Liver Injury via the NLR -caspase-1-IL-1β Pathway in Mice

**Reviewer’s code:** 00227633

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer’s country:** Portugal

**Author’s country:** Japan

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-11-05

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jie Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2019-11-11 14:23

**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-11-11 15:05

**Review time:** 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The author's purpose of the investigation is very interesting, also for medical and/or scientists from related research fields. I would recommend the suggestions described below: 1) The title should be short and concise. According to recent studies that would favor future citations to the paper. What is really new in the paper? 2) Abstract should be also quantitative as possible for rapid comparison with similar studies. Avoid imprecise terms such significant inhibition...but how much? -....."reduction of hepatic tissue ROS and MDA levels, with a significant increase of SOD": but how much 100%?; 2-fold?. On the other hand, if the effect is not statistically significant no need to mention it because it could be only a tendency not a fact. 3) The paper includes 7 references from the last 4 years (about 25% of the total). However, by increasing this percentage with recent papers from 2019 and 2018, for similar studies with other compounds which would turn the paper real and timely. 4) Introduction should be less general and focuses in the main message of the paper. At the end of the intro, it is also not clear what is the main message and relevant points of the paper that should be emphasize at this stage. 5) The authors referred that *Tamarix chinensis* Lour (TCL, Tamaricaceae) is a shrub that usually grows in arid or semiarid desert areas and saline-alkali fields. It is a traditional Chinese herbal medicine with hepatoprotective, antioxidant, antibacterial, and antitumor activities. I would like to make the following suggestion: At the introduction a figure or scheme with the chronology or a timeline of the applications of TCL as anticancer, antimicrobial and other major events in the field would be interesting and useful for a better understanding of the paper. Moreover, this timeline will also reflect the understanding of the authors about the major milestones for TCL in medicine and in particular for hepatic protection. This personal view timeline will be interesting and also pedagogical for chemists, biologists, researchers and professors in the field as well as



also for medical doctors and/or scientists. It could be a specific timeline only for TCL compounds in medicine. Many combinations are possible according to author's desire as a take home message within this project. 6) A figure for the shrub TCL could also favoured the paper. 7) The authors should explain why mice in the TCL-treated group (200 mg/kg) were used. Is this amount similar to others antioxidants used? Comparison is a step further in science. 8) Globally, the results are not properly described. The authors should first describe in a quantitative manner the data before jump to conclusions. Avoid imprecise and/or qualitative terms such as reduced..increase.... 9) The figures should be clearly globally improved, as possible, once WJG deserves high quality figures and with rigor would avoid lacking of interest for the data. Legends should be also as complete as possible. Scale bars are missing in the Fig 2 legend? 10) A scheme highlighting to putative mechanisms of action for TCL would favor the message within the study. 11) Discussion should be more assertive and concise and eventually be divided in sections with titles highlighting the major results. 12) A conclusion section, paper with partial conclusions first and then global conclusions would also favor the take home message of the paper.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

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- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No

##### ***BPG Search:***

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**Title:** Tamarix Chinensis Lour Inhibits Chronic Ethanol-Induced Liver Injury via the NLR -caspase-1-IL-1 $\beta$  Pathway in Mice

**Reviewer's code:** 03763676

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Director, Doctor

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Author's country:** Japan

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**Reviewer performed review:** 2019-11-26 15:52

**Review time:** 19 Days and 6 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
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			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No



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## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In the manuscript 'Tamarix Chinensis Lour Inhibits Chronic Ethanol-Induced Liver Injury via the NLRP3-caspase-1-IL-1 $\beta$  Pathway in Mice', the researchers fed C57BL/6J male mice with Lieber-DeCarli lipid diet containing alcohol to mold ALD mice and then treated them with different doses of TCL. Indexes for hepatotoxic and inflammasome and cytokines were detected. This research was focused on the hepatoprotective function of TCL extract treatment in ALD and put forward a point that inhibiting NLRP3-caspase-1-IL-1 $\beta$  signaling pathway may be involved in this protective process. This interesting study was designed well with a rich supportive data and reliable statistical analysis, however, there are some questions for it: 1. The protective role of TCL has been proved in liver disease, what mechanism does it involve? Is it associated with NLRP3? Are there any other researches focused on NLRP3 in ALD? If so, please detail it and elaborate on the innovation of this study. 2. If other mechanisms are involved in the function of TCL in liver protection, how can you explain the successive relationship between inhibition of NLRP3 and downstream cytokines in liver protection? How do you confirm that the decrease of the inflammasome is caused by TCL and then protect the liver function? The successive relationship between NLRP3 and ROS pathways needs to be explained as well. 3. According to your results, GSH has a similar effect compared with a high dose of TCL in almost all the indexes, did they share a similar mechanism? If not, the successive relationship mentioned above should be re-explained.

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