Review of: "Phytochemical Contents, GC-MS Analysis and Hepatoprotective Effect of the Methanol Leaf Extract of Camelliasinensis (L.) Kuntze on Paracetamol-Induced Liver Injury in Wistar Rats"

Samar Mouneir[1]

1 Cairo University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you very much for giving me the chance to cooperate with your respected journal in reviewing this interesting work. The manuscript deals with the "**The Use of Phytochemical, GC-MS Analysis, and Hepatoprotective Effect of the Methanol Leaf Extract of Camellia Sinensis (L.) Kuntze on Paracetamol-Induced Liver Injury in Wistar Rats**". The study on the hepatoprotective effect of Camellia sinensis methanol leaf extract has significant potential impacts across multiple domains. It offers promising avenues for developing natural, cost-effective treatments for liver injuries, advancing scientific knowledge, promoting sustainable practices, and supporting economic growth and public health education.

There are several potential impacts of this study.

The study on the use of phytochemical, GC-MS analysis, and hepatoprotective effect of the methanol leaf extract of Camellia sinensis (L.) Kuntze on paracetamol-induced liver injury in Wistar rats has several potential impacts across various domains, including medical, pharmaceutical, scientific, economic, and societal aspects. Here are the key potential impacts:

Medical and Health Impacts

1. Development of Hepatoprotective Therapies:

- Natural Remedies for Liver Injury: The study identifies the hepatoprotective properties of Camellia sinensis, potentially leading to the development of natural remedies for treating liver injuries caused by paracetamol and other hepatotoxins.
- Alternative to Synthetic Drugs: The findings may provide a safer alternative to synthetic hepatoprotective drugs, reducing the risk of side effects and improving patient compliance.
- 2- Preventive Healthcare:
- Liver Health Maintenance: Regular use of Camellia sinensis extracts could be promoted for maintaining liver health and preventing liver diseases, particularly in individuals at risk of hepatotoxicity due to medication use or other factors.

Pharmaceutical Impacts

1. New Drug Formulations:

- Phytochemical-Based Drugs: The study's findings could lead to the formulation of new hepatoprotective drugs based on the active compounds identified in Camellia sinensis through GC-MS analysis.
- Standardization and Quality Control: Establishing the phytochemical profile of Camellia sinensis helps in standardizing extracts for use in pharmaceutical products, ensuring consistent quality and efficacy.
- 2- Drug Synergy:
- Combination Therapies: The hepatoprotective properties of Camellia sinensis could be explored in combination with other therapeutic agents to enhance efficacy and reduce toxicity, leading to improved combination therapies.

Economic Impacts

1. Cost-Effective Treatments:

- Affordable Healthcare: Natural extracts from Camellia sinensis could offer a cost-effective alternative to expensive synthetic drugs, making hepatoprotective treatments more accessible, particularly in low-resource settings.
- Reduction in Healthcare Costs: By preventing liver injuries and reducing the need for more intensive treatments, the use of natural hepatoprotective agents can contribute to lowering overall healthcare costs.
- 2- Commercial Opportunities:
- Herbal Product Market: The study's findings can stimulate the growth of the herbal product market, with increased demand for Camellia sinensis-based supplements and medications.

Environmental Impacts

Sustainable Medicine:

- Eco-Friendly Practices: The use of natural plant extracts for medicinal purposes promotes sustainable practices in medicine, reducing reliance on synthetic chemicals and their associated environmental impact.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Highlighting the medicinal value of plants like Camellia sinensis can support efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable harvesting practices.

The weakpoints of this paper.

While the study on the hepatoprotective activity of Camellia sinensis methanol leaf extract in Wistar rats offers promising results, there are several weak points and limitations that should be addressed:

Methodological Weaknesses

Sample Size:

- Limited Number of Rats: The study used groups of five or six rats for the experiments. Larger sample sizes would provide more robust and statistically significant results, improving the reliability of the findings.

Experimental Design Issues

1. Dose Range and Selection:

- Narrow Dose Range: The study tested only two doses of the extract (200 and 400 mg/kg b.w.). Exploring a wider range of doses could help determine the optimal dose and better understand the dose-response relationship.
- 2- Duration of Study:
- Short-term Study: The study duration was eight weeks. Long-term studies are necessary to assess the chronic effects and long-term safety of the extract.
- 3- Lack of Detailed Toxicity Studies:
- Comprehensive Toxicity Evaluation: While an acute toxicity study was performed, more detailed chronic toxicity studies are required to fully understand the safety profile of the extract over extended periods.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

1. Statistical Analysis:

- Limited Statistical Details: The study mentions statistically significant results ($p<0.05$) but does not provide detailed statistical analyses or methodologies, such as the type of statistical tests used, confidence intervals, or effect sizes.
- 2- Mechanistic Insights:
- Insufficient Mechanistic Explanation: The study does not provide a detailed mechanistic explanation of how the bioactive compounds in the extract confer hepatoprotective effects. More insights into the molecular mechanisms involved would strengthen the conclusions.

Data Presentation

1. Lack of Detailed Phytochemical Quantification:

- Quantitative Phytochemical Data: While the presence of major metabolites is mentioned, the study lacks detailed quantitative data on individual phytochemicals, which would help in understanding their specific roles and contributions to the observed effects.
- 2- Incomplete GC-MS Analysis:
- Limited Compound Identification: The GC-MS analysis identified 18 bioactive compounds, primarily fatty acids. However, the study does not provide a comprehensive profile or discuss the potential synergistic effects of these compounds.

Practical and Real-World Considerations

1. Ethnopharmacological Context:

- Traditional Usage: The study concludes that the plant is safe for use in traditional medicine. However, it does not discuss how the experimental doses compare to those used in traditional practices, which is essential for translating

the findings to real-world applications.

- 2- Standardization and Reproducibility:
- Extract Standardization: There is no mention of the standardization of the extract used, which is critical for ensuring reproducibility and consistency in further studies and potential therapeutic applications.

Scientific and Technological Limitations

1. Advanced Analytical Techniques:

- Modern Analytical Methods: The study could benefit from employing more advanced analytical techniques, such as high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, to obtain a more detailed phytochemical profile.
- 2-Comprehensive Histopathological Analysis:
- Detailed Histology: While histopathological examination was conducted, more detailed and quantitative histopathological scoring could provide a clearer assessment of liver tissue integrity and damage.

Addressing these weaknesses would enhance the robustness, reliability, and applicability of the findings. Future research should focus on improving experimental design, providing detailed mechanistic insights, expanding phytochemical analysis, and ensuring the reproducibility and standardization of the extracts used.

My final decision was accepted after a major revision.