Author's response to reviews

Title: Potent alpha-amylase inhibitory activity of Indian Ayurvedic medicinal plants.

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Version: 3 Date: 2 December 2010

Author's response to reviews: see over
To,
The Editor-in Chief
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine Journal 2/12/10

Dear Sir,

Thank you, for considering our manuscript entitled ‘Anti-diabetic Indian Ayurvedic medicinal plants as potent inhibitors of pancreatic alpha-amylase activity’ manuscript Ref no.- MS: 1909338916428534 via e-mail November 26, 2010.

We are submitting the revised version of the manuscript taking into account the additional comments raised by reviewer 2. The replies with a detailed point-by-point response to them, indicating where and how the manuscript has been revised are attached separately below. The covering letter along with the answers to the reviewers comments and the, revised manuscript have been uploaded.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ameeta Ravi Kumar
Reply to the Reviewer's (Emmanouil Apostolidis) Comments

Title: Anti-diabetic Indian Ayurvedic medicinal plants as potent inhibitors of Pancreatic alpha-amylase activity
MS: 1909338916428534
Version: 2 Date: 11 November 2010.

Based on the comments, the changes in the manuscript as per the reviewers recommendations have been made and are given as follows:-

Query 1: Title change- : Potent alpha-amylase inhibitory activity of indian ayurvedic medicinal plants.
Answer 1: Title of the manuscript has been changed and the changes are highlighted.

Query 2: On Page 5: The authors mention that miglitol does not inhibit alpha-amylase. Miglitol inhibits alpha-amylase and should be mentioned.
Answer 2: The changes have been made and highlighted on Page 5, line 1.

Query 3: On page 5 last sentence (line 23) Pharmacological properties of alpha-amylase inhibitors (acarbose)..." should change to:"Pharmacological properties of alpha-glucosidase inhibitors (acarbose), that can also inhibit pancreatic alpha-amylase,...". A reference should be added at the end of the sentence.
Answer 3: Suggested changes on Page 5, last sentence (line 23) is made and highlighted. An additional reference (No. 15) has been added to support the sentence and all other reference numbers within the text are appropriately changed and highlighted.

Query 4: On Page 6, line 2: ",...with these inhibitor...". The citation used studied the effect of acarbose, which is clearly defined as an alpha-glucosidase inhibitor. So this phrase should be changed to:" Long-term day-to-day management of diabetes, with acarbose is well tolerated....".
Answer 4: The change on Page 6, line 2 is made and highlighted accordingly.

Query 5: Page 6, line 13 The authors state that these plants possess antidiabetic properties. I understand that many facts of Ayurveda medicine are unpublished, but if the authors could find a few references it would make their case stronger.
Answer 6: On Page 6, line 13, where the list of plants are mentioned to posses antidiabetic properties the references to support them are cited in Table1 entitled, „Plant sources and their traditional uses”. However, according to the reviewer’s comments, some additional references [8,9,17-21] have been added and are cited on Page 6, line 13. Other reference numbers within the text and Table 1 are changed appropriately. See References.