Author's response to reviews

Title: Acute toxicity, Brine shrimp cytotoxicity, anthelmintic and relaxant potentials of fruits of Rubus fruticosus Agg.

Authors:

Niaz Ali (niazpharmacist@yahoo.com)
Umer Aleem (umaraleem@yahoo.com)
Syed Wadood Ali Shah (wadudalishah@yahoo.com)
Ismail Shah (ismailshah09@yahoo.com)
Muhammad Junaid (juni_phdr@yahoo.com)
Ghayour Ahmed (pahrmacist@gmail.com)
Waqar Ali (wagarmohmadzai@yahoo.com)
Mehreen Ghias (mehreenghias@yahoo.com)

Version: 2 Date: 27 March 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Title: Acute toxicity, Brine shrimp cytotoxicity, anthelmintic and relaxant potentials of fruits of Rubus fruticosus Agg.

Version: 1 Date: 27 February 2013

Reviewer: Richard Cimanga Kanyanga

Abstract

1. L4: correction suggested is rectified

Method

2. The nature of test extract is mentioned as asked.

Results

3. Anthelmintic activity is 137% of albendazole. It is corrected in results of abstract section, and in results and discussion section on page #8 as well.

Conclusion

4. The sentence is revised as suggested

Background

5. All necessary corrections in the text as suggested are rectified which can be traced in the file attached as supplementary file with track changes on.

Method

6. All text corrections are rectified as suggested.

7. Regarding the Data……, yes this is equipments setting parameters and equipments used. It is revised and merely setting parameters are mentioned.

Page 5 Acute toxicity

8. Yes, the stance of the reviewer is correct. This was a typographic error. It is already mentioned in figure 1 as mg/kg. Yes it is already tested on concentration more than 1 g/kg as suggested which can easily be reflected from Figure 1.

Page 6

9. Typographic mistake is rectified as suggested

Page 7 Results and discussion

10. LD50 =887 mg/kg is mentioned in Figure 1. But we could not report in method for acute toxicity as mg/kg. Hence this mistake is rectified. It is uniform in text and in the fogure1 which reflects the higher recommended dose as well.

11. LC50 is replaced with CC50 as suggested.

Page 9 Line 11

12. The phytochemicals groups like saponins, flavonoids are responsible for this activity. Based on our previous publications, the text is revised as asked.

References

13. The name and title of the plant is revised as suggested.

Table 1

14. Yes Table 1 represents the anthelmintic activity and it is also clarified in the text of the manuscript as asked.
Revision based on Reviewer’s report

Title: Acute toxicity, Brine shrimp cytotoxicity, anthelmintic and relaxant potentials of fruits of Rubus fruticosus Agg.

Version: 1 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Lyndy McGaw

Following revision had been documented as asked:

Minor essential revisions:

1. The abstract is now written in past tense as asked. Other grammatical errors have been rectified which can be seen in the supplementary file appended for easy tracing.
2. The method section in abstract now represents “in vitro” method for determination of anthelmintic activity.
3. The implications of the acute toxicity and cytotoxicity studies are mentioned in the conclusion as asked. In fact the pharmacological screenings usually ask for standardization of the extract or test samples where acute toxicity studies are now mandatory. More, brine shrimp cytotoxicity study relates to the safety of test samples as well. That is why we documented these activities in addition to screening for traditional uses.

Background

4. The first sentence is revised as suggested.
5. The genus name is abbreviated as asked on second or subsequent expression.
6. Three more references are added as required for some chemical constituents and traditional uses. i.e. References no:5,6 and 7. Rest of the references no is revised accordingly.

Methods

7. It was collected in July 2008 and changes are done accordingly in manuscript.
8. Rectified accordingly
9. Zoologist identified the parasites. Their maintenance is mentioned.
10. Yes the stance of the reviewer is valid. But the shrimps are extremely vulnerable to any of the stress/chemicals/test samples as these are in larvae phase. While the acute toxicity studies are performed in higher animals like mice and sometimes in rats. Definitely there will be a difference. Regarding relevance of cytotoxicity study to mammalian toxicity, yes there are correlation and that is added in the manuscript. Previous work reference is also added.
11. Yes the reviewer’s stance is right. In fact the EC50 values are not reported here for anthelmintic activity. We have tested it in concentrations 10, 20 and 40 mg/ml which is very well reported in literature. Reference 25 is added.

I thank both the reviewers for giving their valuable inputs for making this manuscript of standard.

Dr. Niaz Ali

Associate Professor Pharmacology