Reviewer's report

Title: Immunomodulatory activity of polysaccharides isolated from Clerodendrum splendens: Beneficial effects in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2013

Reviewer: Fumio Tsuji

Reviewer's report:

Although the authors have provided some evidences that the immunomodulatory activity of polysaccharides isolated from Clerodendrum splendens, they are obscure and unclear. First of all, there are mismatches between the symbols of Figure legends and Figures. I cannot understand which symbols of Figures are which groups. Therefore, my review includes some speculations. There are some critiques as follows.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Authors should correct the mismatches between the symbols of Figure legends and Figures.
2. Authors used a lot of monocyte/macrophage cell lines including PBMC. However, there are no explanations why authors used them. Authors should explain them. I think some of results using monocyte/macrophage cell lines should be deleted.
3. I cannot understand CSP-AU1 is the most potent activator of TNF, IL-6, and GM-CSF production. CSP-NU1 is also potent activator of them.
4. In Fig.11, authors should examine GM-CSF production.
5. In Effect of CSP-AU1 on EAE, I think CSP-AU1 have only delayed the onset of EAE. Authors should examine the effect of CSP-AU1 after 17 days. In addition, author should examine the effects of CSP-NU1 as an immunomodulator and CSP-AU2 as a negative control on EAE. Moreover, authors should examine the effects of polysaccharides by oral administration for estimating clinical usefulness.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. In Fig.9, please mark panel A and panel B.
2. In Fig.12, the symbols of statistical significance should be marked on drug-treated group.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.