Author's response to reviews

Title: Antileptospiral activity of xanthones from Garcinia magostana and synergy of gamma-mangostin with penicillin G

Authors:

Weeranuch Seesom (april_narak@hotmail.co.th)
Amornmart Jaratrungtawee (cin_thong@yahoo.com)
Sunit Suksumran (sunit@swu.ac.th)
Chantana Mekseepralard (chantana@swu.ac.th)
Piniti Ratananukul (piniti@mua.go.th)
Wasana Sukhumsirichart (wasanas@swu.ac.th)

Version: 5 Date: 29 April 2013

Author's response to reviews:

Response to associate editorial’s comments

Dear Associate Editor

Thank you very much for your helpful comments. Concerning to the two comments, we would like to explain as follows;

1. In addition to minor editorial corrections needed, it is clear from the revised manuscript that authors have not used a positive control in this study. On page 5, authors mentioned using 'EMJH containing 10% DMSO and leptospires without xanthones) and negative control (EMJH containing 10% DMSO)'. The said positive control is not correct. A positive control in this case should be an antibiotic known to inhibit or kill the organism. What authors described herein as positive control is actually a negative control and what they described as a negative control has no basis. As in many journals, studies on antimicrobial activities of plant extracts and/or isolated compounds without an appropriate positive control are not acceptable. Therefore, except if the authors have really used such in this study, this manuscript is scientifically flawed.

Actually, we did include penicillin G as a positive control as you can see the MIC values of pencillin G in Table 2. Another two controls, (1) EMJH containing 10% DMSO and leptospires without crude extracts or xanthones, and (2) EMJH containing 10% DMSO (to check bacterial contamination), were also included. In our previous publication, we had addressed the positive and negative controls in the same context as you comment, however, that journal preferred to address in another way. According to your comment, we are very happy to address the two controls as you advise in the revised manuscript.

2. Another major concern is that Table 2 is not clear. What do the data in the second to fifth column represent? It is rather confusing as it is.
In table 2, the 2nd and 3rd column showed the MIC values of single compounds, penicillin G or #-mangostin among the 5 serovars of Leptosapira. We also demonstrated that the MICs of penicillin G and #-mangostin were reduced when they were combined together (the 4th and 5th column). It would be easier to understand synergistic effect when comparing the MICs before and after combination of both compounds. However, we did a minor change in the table 2 at the heading column 2 to 5, line 2, from “Single drug to Before combination” and “Combination of drug to After combination”.

Response to reviewer's comment

Dear Dr. Satendra Singh

We have edited the reference number 21 already. Thank you.