Reviewer's report

Title: Acute and chronic antihypertensive effects of Cinnamomum zeylanicum stem bark methanol extract in L-NAME-induced hypertensive rats

Version: 3 Date: 20 August 2012

Reviewer: Chao-Yin Chen

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the acute and chronic effects of the MECZ extract on blood pressure, aorta and heart sizes and nitric oxide contents, and lipid profile. The authors concluded that MECZ has antihypertensive and organ protective effects that may result from increased NO production and/or changes in lipid profile.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. “All treatments were given by gastric intubation”. Please describe in more detail on how this was accomplished. Were the animals anesthetized for the intubation? Was the intubation done daily? Were the procedures/protocols used in this study reviewed and approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee?

2. The plots in figure 2 are identical to those in figure 6.

3. “Neither MECZ nor captopril could prevent the body weight loss induced by L-NAME”. Were body weights from MECZ and captopril group significantly different from the control group? According to figure 3, these two treatments were not different from control (although it appears that they might be different from the control). If they were not different from control, it would imply that they prevented the body weight loss. This point needs to be addressed.

4. Please include quantitative group data for the aortic and left ventricle histomorphologies.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. In figure 1, the Y label should be from +100 (top) to -80 (bottom).

Discretionary Revisions

1. MECZ was dissolved in DMSO, however, water was used for control group. It would be helpful to include a statement for the rationale for using water as the control.

2. The significance was set at p<0.05. Using different p values (p<0.01 and p<0.001) in the results does not add more information. It is suggested that the authors use only one p value throughout the manuscript.

3. It seems that the acute effect of MECZ is not dose-dependent (figure 1). The authors may want to comment on this.
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.