Reviewer's report

Title: Rhodiola crenulata Extract for Prevention of Acute Mountain Sickness: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Crossover Trial

Version: 1 Date: 28 June 2013

Reviewer: Jeffrey H. Gertsch

Reviewer's report:

I applaud the author's efforts in the present study to add to the body of literature in hypoxia and CAMs. CAM topics are under reported in general despite their high utilization, and the authors may well improve upon the importance of their paper by noting the analogous use of coca leaves for altitude illness in South America (despite evidence against its utility). I also respect the author's due diligence paid to CONSORT guidelines in trial design and reporting, and their willingness to publish despite the negative result. The review is straightforward with the CONSORT checklist completed.

Major Compulsory Revisions

I do not have any to suggest.

Minor Essential Revisions -

1. Grammar and punctuation are generally appropriate, however there were several trouble spots which I will leave to the journal editor’s discretion to work with the authors on (use of the word no in the first line of the abstract, etc). That said, the language was clear enough that I am not concerned there is a loss of information or nuance.

2. strong recommendation in the introduction and/or discussion the hypothesized link for Rhodiola crenulata extract's possible mechanism of action in prevention of Acute Mountain Sickness.

Discretionary Revisions

1. As above, recommend noting the analogous use of coca leaves for altitude illness in South America (despite evidence against its utility) to make the point that CAMs are omnipresent and should not be dismissed as 'non-medications.'

2. If available, can you cite the extent to which this is used in either indigenous and/or tourist populations?

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**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