Reviewer's report

Title: Astragali radix Antiasthmatic decoction prevents allergic airway hyperresponsiveness and remodeling in mice

Version: 2 Date: 2 July 2013

Reviewer: Angel Alex

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

Comment 1.

The study was carried out using a decoction prepared from nine plants which are used in Chinese medicine. The medicinal and pharmacologic potential of only two among the nine ingredients are well documented. The role of remaining seven is not clear. The criterion for including these seven plants may be explained. Also the type of effect produced or expected by these plants individually or in combination may preferably be explained in the article. Reference citation pertaining to the same may be included.

As AAD exerts similar effects as that of Astragali radix it is appropriate to justify the role of other herbs in the formulation (AAD). A detailed comparison of your results with that of references 9 and 10 could have been done to confirm the effects produced by AAD is superior to Astragali radix.

Comment 2.

Animal Ethical Committee Clearance Number should be indicated.

Comment 3.

Regarding the response to the doses studied, it is reported in your article that the response to the two doses studied does not vary significantly. If so, what is the justification for using a high dose to get an effect when half the dose gives the same effect? Also it is advisable to study the effect at lower doses.

Comparison between dose groups is missing.

Comment 4.

Page 5, line 12- quantity of boiling water and method of extraction is not given. It may be included for better understanding.

Comment 5.

It is ideal to give expansions of abbreviations with abbreviation in brackets, when it is mentioned for the first time in the text. e.g., ovalbumin (OVA)

Expansions for H-OVA, L-OVA, Mech, BALF, etc are not found in the text.

Comment 6.

Conclusions may be elaborated.
Minor essential Revision

Comment 7.

Typographical errors:
Page 3, last paragraph – dried not drided
Page 4, second paragraph – herbal formula not herb formulae.
Page 4, last Paragraph – read comment 1
Page 5, line 12 – spray dried not dry sprayed
Page 6, line 2 – for 18 days consecutively
Page 6, line 19- blind fashion?
Page 7, line 6- “o”
Page 7, line 9- blind fashion?
Page 10, line 10- two not tow

Comment 8
Sample size – give an exact number(page 18, line 16)

Report
This research article pertains to subject area of the journal. The quality of the research work is good and may be accepted for publication with minor changes after incorporating the discussion on the above mentioned queries.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.