Author's response to reviews

Title: Polygonum viviparum L. induces vasorelaxation in the rat thoracic aorta via activation of nitric oxide synthase in endothelial cells

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Please accept our sincerest gratitude for BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine’s conditional consideration for publication of our paper ( Manuscript ID: 1483743711810511. Article title: Polygonum viviparum L. induces vasorelaxation in the rat thoracic aorta via activation of nitric oxide synthase in endothelial cells) upon minor revisions. In the revised manuscript, we completely addressed the minor of the valid experimental recommendations raised by the editorial advisor comments. Additional or revised parts of the manuscript for the editorial advisor comments are presented in red.

In addition, we already removed the ethics documents that have been uploaded as Additional files.

Reply to the editorial advisor comments

1. In the methods section it is still not clear on how many aortic rings the experiments were performed. This should be included or the figure legends should be adjusted: In the figure legends of figure 1 they state: Data are expressed as the mean +/- SEM for more than 5 individual determinations. If the
authors mean and thus can agree with: Data are expressed as the mean +/- SEM (n≥5 animals per time point) this concern is solved. In the legend of figure 2 the authors added: Each experiment was repeated more than 5 times. If the authors mean and thus can agree with: each experiments was conducted in aortic rings of at least 5 animals, this issue is also solved.

Answer: I appreciate the reviewer’s expert comment. We agreed this comment and revised in our new revision.

2. The second issue is the discrepancy there seems to be between the effect of 100 ug/ml polygonum vivparum extract in the various figures. In figure 1C 100 ug/ml results in a relaxation ratio of 80%, however in figure 1B (intact) it seems only to be 50% maximum and in Figure 2B even less.

Answer: The calculation of the relaxation ratio is based on the relaxation effect of ACh. Therefore, in Figure 1B and Figure 2B the effect of 100ug/ml polygonum vivparum is compared to the effect of ACh not the PE induced contraction level.