Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of melilotus extract on lung injury by upregulating the expression of cannabinoid CB2 receptors in septic rats

Authors:

Ming-wei Liu (lmw2004210@163.com)
Mei-xian Sun (758437603@qq.com)
Lan-fang Qin (13629459701@139.com)
Xu Liu (1mw2004210@126.com)
Mao-li Tian (15198852569@139.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

We would like to submit the enclosed manuscript by Liu Ming-wei, Su Mei-xian, Qin Lan-fang, Liu Xu, Tian Mao-li, entitled "The effect and mechanisms of melilotus extract on lung injury by upregulating the expression of cannabinoid CB2 receptors in septic rats". which we wish to be considered for publication in *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. The paper is an original research work and is not previously published or presented elsewhere in any language and is also not in consideration in any other journal simultaneously.

The authors (Liu Ming-wei, Su Mei-xian, Qin Lan-fang, Liu Xu, Tian Mao-li) declare that we have no competing interests. Because we haven’t received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future. This manuscript wasn’t financed from any organization including the article-processing charge. We don’t hold any stocks or shares in an organization that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future. This manuscript wasn’t currently applying for any patents, we don’t have any other financial competing interests. There aren’t any non-financial competing interests (political, personal, religious, ideological, academic, intellectual, commercial or any other) to declare in relation to this manuscript.

We believe the paper may be of particular interest to the readers of your journal. At first, this experiment is about effect of Traditional Chinese Medicine melilotus extract on pulmonary injury in septic rats by upregulating CB2 receptors expression, comply with the publication characteristic. The second, Melilotus suavcolen, a kind of traditional Tibetan medicine is bitter, cold, and effective for heat-clearing, detoxifying, anti-inflammatory, and drying limbs ichor, thus is normally applied in spleen disease, twisted intestinal fever, diphtheria, and tonsillitis, etc. Pharmacological studies show that the ethanol extract from melilotus suavcolen is of powerful anti-inflammatory activity. Whether the Melilotus suavcolen can upregulating CB2 receptors expression has not been reported.

The study shows that melilotus extract tablets can promote expression of cannabinoid CB2 receptors, inhibit NF-κβ expression and promote κβ expression, reduce the generation of proinflammatory media like TNF-a and IL-6, increase the production of anti-inflammatory media such as IL-10 and IL-12, alleviate the pathological injury of lung tissues in rats with sepsis, thus providing animal experimental basis for the treatment of sepsis by application of M. suaveolens Ledeb.

Correspondence and phone calls about the paper should be directed to Ming-Wei Liu at the following address, phone and email address:
Liu Ming-wei
Department of Infectious Diseases
Yan’an Hospital Kunming Affiliated Kunming Medical University,
245, Renmin Eastern Road, Kunming City, Yunan Kunming(650000), China;
Telephone: 15198852569
Email: lmw2004210@163.com
Thank very much for you attention to our paper.

Sincerely
Liu Ming-wei