Reviewer's report

Title: Experimental study of Delphinium denudatum Wall. on the abstinence signs in morphine dependent rats

Authors:
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Version: 4 Date: 18 Apr 2002

Reviewer: Dr shadab zafar

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the compulsory revisions

Response for Authors

In the previous revision of this manuscript several pharmacological reports were provided, but author report in their response that "no previous literature prove that extract of Delphinium denudatum (D.d.) or its alkaloid are opioid antagonist". *In this connection, I want to provide the same reference of previous revision. S. Zafar et al. (2001): Journal of Ethnopharmacology. 78, 95 -98. This study was conducted on aqueous extract of D.d. and shows protection against morphine induce tolerance and dependence in mice. Therefore the references can be updated and the above article could be included.

Comments:

Title: 'Experimental study of Delphinium denudatum Wall. on the abstinence signs in morphine dependent rats.'

Rehman et al.

This paper presents interesting results but the following points need to be re-addressed:
*Indicate to previous revision, which is not revised in this revision.

Discretionary Revisions:
In materials and methods only two sub-headings "Drugs" and "Statistical analysis" are presented and others detail about animals, treatment schedule and technique are presented without sub-heading. It looks like odd, therefore, the use of sub-headings is strongly encouraged such as: Animals, Drugs, Treatment schedule, Technique, Statistical analysis etc.

Compulsory Revisions:

Materials and Methods:
Indicate the yield of the extract (7.43%) was w/w in terms of dried starting material. Also use the correct term such as "sticky or ......" in place of "plastic".

Para 4: Line 7:
Write Neil and Sparber in place of Neil (also correct the spelling).

Statistical analysis:
*P value, which was considered significant, is not mentioned either less than 5 % ?

Page 4:
Results:
For better presentation the order of counted and checked signs should be similar in results as presented in Table 2.

*Line 17: "(table 3)" to be deleted, it should be written in line 21 after "group 5 followed by group 4 and 6" ?
*Line 18: "p.o." to be deleted.
Line 21: "(mean + S.E.M.)" to be deleted.
*Also incorporate the aggregate score of signs (mean + S.E.M.) of group 1 and 2 for better presentation as reported the comparison of these groups in the results and discussion.

Page 5:
Discussion:
Discussion should deal with the interpretations of results without repeating information already presented under results. It should relate the new findings to the known and include logical deductions.
Para 1: Line5:
Write Table 2 in place of Table 1b.
Para 2:
Line 3 to be deleted, it is already written in results so there is no need of repetition.

Table 3:
For better presentation the order of counted and checked signs should be similar in Table 3 as presented in Table 2, except those signs, which was not observed in this set-up.
*Write the data of each observed sign of Group 1 and 2.
*Also shows the comparison between Group 2 and 3 vs. Group 1 as written in results.

Fig.1:
*Write "Aggregate score of signs (Mean + S.E.M.)" on Y-axis.
*Incorporate the score of Group 1 and 2 with Mean + S.E.M.
Also shows their respective levels of significance with multiple comparisons of each group by astrix and add their legend under the figure.

Consent:
I am also giving my consent that you can pass my signed report to the authors, and if the paper is accepted for publication, then you can pass my signed report together with paper as a part of the pre-publication history.
Dr. Shadab Zafar
Hamdard University

**Competing interests:**

I am also giving my consent that you can pass my signed report to the authors, and if the paper is accepted for publication, then you can pass my signed report together with paper as a part of the pre-publication history.

Dr. Shadab Zafar
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