Reviewer's report

Title: Amelioration of galactosamine-induced nephrotoxicity by a protein isolated from the leaves of the herb, Cajanus indicus L

Version: 1 Date: 9 January 2007

Reviewer: Kiyohito Yagi

Reviewer's report:

General
This paper describes the protective and curative effects of the protein purified from the medicinal plant on kidney injury. The administration of the protein clearly showed antioxidation effect on GalN-treated mice and the protein appeared to be promising for the treatment and protection of liver and kidney injury. I think the paper could be accepted for publication if the author corrected several points listed below.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Page 4, line 3
The reference [16] treated the protein, silymarin, which seems to be different from the protein used in this study. The author should change the reference to [31] or appropriate paper describing the DPPH radical scavenging activity of the protein.

2. Page 6, line 2-4
The author should write the method of GalN and protein administration more clearly.
Does the phrase “at an intraperitoneal dose of 800 mg/kg body weight for 3 days” mean 3 times administration of 800mg/kg GalN?
Does the phrase “the protein intraperitoneally at a dose of 2 mg/kg body weight for 4 days” mean 4 times administration of 2mg/kg protein?
Same descriptions are seen in many places in the text.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

3. Why did the author choose the intraperitoneal administration for the protein? If the author tried the intravenous injection of the protein, please discuss the difference in the effectiveness between i.p. and i.v. administrations. Does the author think that the intraperitoneally administered protein enters into bloodstream, reached to the kidney, and express the effects?

4. The author needs to discuss the protein used in this study. Is there any protein isolated from medicinal plants possessing the antioxidation activity? Is there any protein with structural or biochemical similarity to this protein?

5. Figure 7.
Please discuss why the administration of vitamin E or the protein extremely enhanced the GSH level of the control.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable
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.