**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Anti-emetic mechanisms of Zingiber officinale against cisplatin induced emesis in the pigeon; behavioral and neurochemical correlates

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 15 July 2014

**Reviewer:** Ralf Regenthal

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory Revisions: no

Minor essential Revisions

1. The authors should comment on the limitations of the study, i.e. that the actions on behaviour and neurotransmitters are restricted to the total acetonic extract.

2. I would advice a more exact title like: “Anti-emetic actions of zingiber officinale against cisplatin induced acute emesis in the pigeon – behavioural…” as rather time-related different neurotransmitter modulations are studied in comparison to MCP than “mechanisms” can be derived.

3. Method Chapter Tissue Sampling for neurotransmitter analysis: The authors should make clear, that that brain samples were cleaned from vessels and meninges before freezing and consecutive analysing, as this may influence the results.

4. The Result Chapter “Effect of ZO-ActFR or MCP on cisplatin induced jerks and weight loss” can be omitted, as these parameters are only secondary; they do not contribute to the main results and are not subject of discussion.

Discretionary Revisions

1. Introduction is coherent and conclusive.

2. Method Chapter Drugs and Chemicals: Please correct: sodium dihydrogen orthophosphate, only.

3. Method Chapter Determination of neurotransmitters: Additionally to refer to a reference, please give a brief method validation with essentials like limit of quantification (LOQ), inter-assay and intra-assay reproducibility, recovery of analytes and the parameters which was used for quantification e.g. peak height or peak area. These issues are often highly problematic in electrochemical detection of neurotransmitters.

4. Result Section: Chapter “Effect of standard MCP or ZO-ActFR on the level of neurotransmitters …at 3rd hour of cisplatin administration” – The 2. paragraph which begins with “The treatment with standard MCP …” is only true, if “in comparison with saline control” is added. Further in the text, “5HT reduction in
BS/intestine” is so not indexed in table 3. Chapter: “Effect of …at 18th hour of cisplatin administration”: In the 4th paragraph the reviewer would advice the words pre-treatment instead of treatment and diminished instead of decreased.

5. Discussion: 4th paragraph: Please consider…nonetheless longer, but moderate protection. The last paragraph remains unclear in meaning and content – please prove the content.

6. References: Ref. 17 and 18 are incorrectly cited and need a verification.

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

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.