Author’s response to reviews

Title: The intake of maqui (Aristotelia chilensis) berry extract normalizes H2O2 and IL-6 concentrations in exhaled breath condensate from healthy smokers - An explorative study.

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RESPONSES TO REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

Reviewer 1

Commas were changed for point in all decimal values elsewhere in the text

The term “Interleuquin” was corrected (p9)

Reviewer 2

1- We agree with the reviewer that many studies have observed higher lung concentrations of IL-6 in smokers than in nonsmokers. However, it is noteworthy that most of them are carried out in subjects older and with a more elevated cigarette consumption and a longer smoking history than those who participated in our study. These differences probably explain the lower IL-6 concentrations reported in our subjects. Furthermore, many studies (in addition to that from McCrea et al.) have also reported that cigarette smoke decreases IL-6 release by alveolar macrophages as well as by bronchial and alveolar epithelial cells. A paragraph (including 7 references) supporting this hypothesis has been added in text (highlighted in yellow).

2- The biomarkers of inflammation proposed by the reviewer are effectively interesting and we will consider them in the future study that we are currently elaborating.

3- A paragraph (highlighted in yellow) was added in the introduction section according to the reviewer’s comments regarding the selection of the biomarkers and the subjects.
4- The references corresponding to the methodologies used for the determination of total polyphenols and FRAP and for the collection of exhaled breath samples were added in the Method section (Ref 14, 15 and 16)

Editorial points:

The different points described in the Editor Letter have been addressed