

August 19, 2019

PeerJ

Dear Pedro Silva, Academic Editor:

Thank you for your e-mail of August 12, with regard to our manuscript (Article ID: 36484) entitled “Effects of shokyo (*Zingiberis Rhizoma*) and kankyo (*Zingiberis Processum Rhizoma*) on prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> production in lipopolysaccharide-treated mouse macrophage RAW264.7 cells” by Toshiaki Ara *et al.* Moreover, we would express our thanks to you again and reviewer 2 for reviewing this manuscript and helpful comments. I am sending therewith our revised manuscript with changes indicated by using red color and figures, with sheet detailing our response to the points raised and the changes we have made.

I hope you will find the data interesting and would consider whether this manuscript is acceptable for publication in PeerJ.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

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We would express our thanks to the reviewer for reviewing this manuscript and helpful comments.

- 1) As the reviewer pointed out, we have misunderstood the reviewer's comment. Because the time schedule of "sequential treatment" in the legends in Figure 3A were right but the schema was wrong, we corrected the schema (LPS treatment for 6 h and thereafter with each herb for 1 h).
- 2) Image analysis software ImageJ (made by NIH, and originally named NIH Image) is widely used in many studies to analyze the intensity of bands on X-ray films (although the method using ImageJ is omitted in many studies). We describe the several examples of the sentence using ImageJ in Materials and Methods section as below.

- "the blots were analysed using Image J software."
  - Molecules 23: 3319 (2018)
- "Densitometric analysis was performed using NIH Image J Software."
  - Journal of Pharmacological Sciences 133: 18–24 (2017)
- "the bands were analyzed using ImageJ software."
  - Oncotarget 8: 42001–42006 (2017)
- "Protein levels were quantified using Image J software."
  - Mediators of Inflammation 2015: 329405 (2015)
- "the optical density of an equal area for each band was determined using Image J software."
  - Biological Pharmaceutical Bulletin 34: 1864–1873 (2011)

We also modified the sentence concerning ImageJ (**Page 4, lines 141–143**).

- 3) According to reviewer's comment, we replaced with the new Western blotting results without splicing (Figure 6C).