

Animal care and use statement

Dear Editor,

I am submitting the manuscript entitled, "*In vitro and in vivo antioxidative and hepatoprotective activity of aqueous extract of Cortex Dictamni*," for consideration as a publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

The animal protocol was designed to minimize pain or discomfort to the animals. The animals were kept at the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development's animal room for 5 days prior to oral administration to allow for their acclimatization to the laboratory conditions (25 °C , 12h/12h light/dark, 50% humidity, *ad libitum* access to food and water). Intragastic gavage administration was carried out with conscious animals, using straight gavage needles appropriate for the animal size. At the end of the experiment, the animals were anaesthetized by inhalation of ethyl ether. All interventions and animal care procedures were performed in accordance with the Guidelines and Policies for Animal Surgery provided by our institute (Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, China) and were approved by the Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee.

Cordially yours,

Yang XU, MD, PhD, Corresponding Author

Lin LI, BS, First Author