

ESPS JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pharmacology and Therapeutics

ESPS manuscript NO: 26481

Title: Response of irritable bowel syndrome with constipation patients administered a combined quebracho/conker tree/*M. balsamea* Willd extract

Journal Editor-in-Chief (Associate Editor): Hugh J Freeman

Country: Canada

Editorial Director: Xiu-Xia Song

Date sent for review: 2016-06-01 17:29

Date reviewed: 2016-06-02 05:53

ACADEMIC CONTENT EVALUATION	LANGUAGE QUALITY EVALUATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		

JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (ASSOCIATE EDITOR) COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

How reproducible are the extracts from batch to batch? Are the materials the same regardless of locale? Authors should comment on this aspect. Otherwise no added comments to those noted in peer review.

Answer:

I am writing to address the comment in final review by you to finalize the manuscript 26481. Your questions are:

"How reproducible are the extracts from batch to batch? Are the materials the same regardless of locale? Authors should comment on this aspect. Otherwise no added comments to those noted in peer review."

In the manuscript, the following content is written in the initial part of the case report:

"The Quebracho extract has a 80-82% polyphenol content with 72-74% soluble tannins, primarily consisting by of profisetinidin subunits as part of trimeric, tetrameric and pentameric condensed



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tannins (~75%) determined by MALDI-TOF and ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR fingerprint analysis. The Conker Tree extract is standardized to 20% saponin content by UV-Visible spectrophotometry and High Performance Thin Layer Chromatography (HPTLC) densitometry. Finally, pure peppermint oil content from *M. balsamea Willd* was determined by specific gravity, angular rotation and refractive index (USP29)."

These methods assure consistency and reproducibility of the primary ingredients; soluble tannins, saponin, and peppermint oil. In addition, as required under US law and regulations, the dietary supplement is produced under current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs). So no matter where the materials are sourced from, these methods assure proper standardization for the primary components listed above.