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**DESCRIPTION**

*Phytomedicine* is primarily a therapy-oriented Journal. *Phytomedicine* publishes innovative studies on efficacy, safety, quality and mechanisms of action of specified plant extracts, phytopharmaceuticals and their isolated constituents. This includes *clinical, pharmacological, pharmacokinetic, and toxicological studies* of specified herbal medicinal products, herbal preparations and purified compounds which have a defined and consistent quality assuring reproducible pharmacological activity.

*Phytomedicine* was founded in 1994 to focus and stimulate research in this particular field and to set internationally accepted scientific standards for pharmacological studies, proof of clinical efficacy and safety of phytomedicines.

The main aims of *Phytomedicine* are associated with the integration of phytopreparations into conventional/official medicine.

The journal covers the following sections:

- Clinical pharmacology and toxicology (randomized, placebo controlled, double blind, and observational open label studies)
- Behavioural, mental, affective, and stress-associated disorders
- Age-associated disorders
- Neuropharmacology
- Endocrine pharmacology
- Metabolic syndrome and obesity
- Cancer
- Immunopharmacology, inflammation
- Infectious diseases
- Pulmonary, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and urogenital diseases
- Systems biology
- Safety assessment, pre-clinical toxicology, interaction with drugs and adverse events of herbal preparations
- Pharmacokinetic of natural compounds
- Standardization of herbal preparations
- Legislation of botanicals
- Invited reviews

The directions of *Phytomedicine* are known to provide profound scientific background in Herbal Medicinal Products, their reproducible Quality and evidence based therapeutic efficacy. Since then quality criteria and standardization methods were defined and the European Medical Agency has elaborated numerous guidelines for the conduction of clinical studies and preparation of Herbal Medicinal Products. In total 107 ESCOP monographs have been produced and submitted to EMA. Many new analytical methods and instruments were implemented both for analysis and standardization of herbal Substances, herbal preparations and their bioassays and tremendous work has been carried out to remain aligned with these intentions during the last 18 years.

Nowadays important topics remain to be approached, such as harmonization of the regulatory frameworks in Europe, America, Asia and Australia or the legislation of various "botanicals", where strict differentiation of requirements for health claims of herbal medicinal product, dietary supplements and nutraceuticals are required.
AUDIENCE
Pharmacologists, toxicologists, pharmacists, pharmacognosists, phytotherapists (clinicians),
biochemists, botanists, general practitioners

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Seyed Mohammad Nabavi, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran, Islamic Republic of
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Alexander Orekhov, FSBSI Institute of General Pathology and Physiopathology, Moskva, Russian Federation
Alexander Panossian, EuroPharma USA, Stockholm, Sweden
Jinyong Peng, Dalian Medical University College of Pharmacy, Dalian, China
Antonieta Rojas de Arias, Center for the Development of Scientific Research, Asuncion, Paraguay
Lorenz Schild, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Pathobiotechnology, Magdeburg, Germany

AUTHOR INFORMATION PACK 18 Apr 2020 www.elsevier.com/locate/phymed
Paul Schnitzler, Heidelberg University Hospital Centre for Infectiology, Heidelberg, Germany
Dipali Sharma, Johns Hopkins Medicine Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center, Baltimore, United States
Alexander Shikov, Group of Scientific Research Institutes, Sankt Peterburg, Russian Federation
Leandros Skaltsounis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece
Barbara Steinhoff, German Medicines Manufacturers’ Association, Herbal and Homoeopathic Medicines, Bonn, Germany
Hermann Stuppner, University of Innsbruck Department of Pharmacognosy, Innsbruck, Austria
Gudrun Ulrich-Merzenich, University Hospital Bonn, Bonn, Germany
Jian Wang, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, United States
Oliver Werz, Jena University Hospital, Jena, Germany
Vincent Kam Wai Wong, Macau University of Science and Technology, Macau Institute for Applied Research in Medicine and Health, Taipa, Macao
Wanying Wu, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China
Jianbo Xiao, University of Macau, Taipa, Macao
Pei-gen Xiao, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Haidian District, China
Cheng-Chia Yu, Chung Shan Medical University College of Oral Medicine, Taichung, Taiwan
Su Zeng, Zhejiang University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hangzhou, China
Hua Zhou, Macau University of Science and Technology, Taipa, China
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

PHYTOMEDICINE

International Journal of Phytotherapy and Phytopharmacology

Scope

Phytomedicine is primarily a therapy-oriented Journal, which publishes innovative studies on efficacy, safety, quality and mechanisms of action of specified plant extracts, phytopharmaceuticals and their purified constituents. This includes clinical and preclinical studies of properly standardized herbal medicinal products, herbal preparations and isolated compounds, which have reproducible pharmacological activity.

The journal covers the following sections: Trends in Phytopharmacology: innovative technologies and emerging concepts - Reviews Clinical pharmacology and toxicology Pre-clinical pharmacology and toxicology Mechanisms of action of herbal medicines and their active constituents Neuropharmacology Endocrine pharmacology Cancer Inflammation Infectious diseases Cardiovascular diseases Ageing associated disorders Quality of Herbal preparations/botanicals: adulteration, standardization, analysis Legislation of Herbal preparations/botanicals Current issues in Phytomedicine research (various topics which are not covered in all other volumes).

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Article requirements

Please note the following requirements for consideration of an article, upon submitting your manuscript:

1. Is your article within the scope of Phytotherapy?
   Your article must meet the scope of Phytotherapy (please see above). Articles that are not in the scope, will be rejected immediately! Articles on the isolation and structure elucidation of novel bioactive compounds or the development of new analytical methods do not fall into the scope of Phytotherapy. However, pharmacological and clinical studies of novel natural products, where new compounds or methods of analysis of active pharmaceutical ingredients in herbal preparations and biological fluids and tissues are reported (e.g. in pharmacokinetic studies), are welcome. Dietary Supplements, "Botanicals" or "Functional Food" are not within the scope of Phytotherapy unless they are specified/standardized and pharmacologically investigated analogues to herbal drugs and if the evidence presented is comparable to therapeutic outcomes with a positive control. Studies on pure compounds are not accepted if their origin is not clearly related to the plant kingdom. Pharmacological studies of isolated compounds in various forms (salts, ethers, etc.), which do not exist in nature are out of scope of Phytotherapy. Screening results of a large number of plant extracts or plant constituents for pharmacological activities will not be considered unless they are focused on those plants or constituents which show superior activities in comparison with generally accepted positive (reference) compounds.

2. Does your article comply with the standard requirements of Phytotherapy?
   Your article must meet the criteria assuring reproducible quality and efficacy of herbal preparations. Latin binomial name and the author, local name and English name and plant part(s) used must be specified for all plants used in the study. It should be stated that the plant name has been checked with http://www.theplantlist.org. The authentication of fresh plants or dried herbal drugs, including those of formulas, must be carried out by means of macroscopic and/or microscopic, molecular biological, chemical, chromatographic and/or other suitable pharmacognostic methods. Voucher specimens of plant materials used for all studies must be deposited and identified with a voucher number, the date and location of collection. The plant material may derive from natural origin, from cultivated plants, or from an herbal drug market. In case of commercially procured material the source, batch number, and quality control data should be specified. All scientific names of the plants must be written in italics through the whole manuscript! Herbal medicinal products and herbal extracts Herbal medicinal products or herbal preparations must be declared in accordance to EMA guidelines. In particular, herbal extracts must be clearly and comprehensively described with respect to the plant part used, the drug extract ratio, type and concentration of extraction solvent, extraction
conditions etc. They must be sufficiently characterized (e.g. by HPLC fingerprints) and specified for the content of marker compounds to ensure a consistent quality and reproducible pharmacological activity. The choice of marker must be justified. The analytical methods have to be validated for selectivity, accuracy and precision and briefly described, providing the most important information necessary to obtain reproducible results. Traditional and commercial names of herbal preparations should be mentioned in the Introduction of the manuscript, but not in the title. Phytomedicine accepts only international standard terminology – binomial Latin names of the plants and their combinations.

Herbal combinations

Studies with herbal drug combinations (e.g. 2-5 plants) will be accepted only if each herbal drug undergo the same authentication and standardization process as described above, each single herbal extracts is HPLC fingerprinted and relevant marker constituents are quantified before and after the extracts are mixed. A 3-D-HPLC-profile of the multiherbal drug combination must be provided. Authors must clearly demonstrate which analytical marker specifically indicates on the presence each of herbal ingredients in the combination. Additionally, we encourage the use other relevant and validated physiological, biological, or biochemical methods, which ensure reproducible pharmacological activity of multi-herbal drug combinations.

Chemicals, phytochemicals and other purified compounds For purified compounds, please provide chemical names using relevant information from the NCBI PubChem which can be found on the website http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pccompound. In studies with purified compounds the evidences of their purity (13C NMR or HPLC peak purity test) are required.

Gene nomenclature Authors should use approved nomenclature for gene symbols. Please consult the appropriate nomenclature data bases for correct gene names and symbols. "Entrez Gene" is a useful resource. Approved human gene symbols are provided by HUGO Gene Nomenclature committee (HGNC): http://www.gene.ucl.ac.uk/nomenclature Approved Mouse symbols are provided by The Jackson Laboratory: http://www.informatics.jax.org/mgihome/nomen

Approved C. elegans symbols are provided by Caenorhabditis Genetics Center: http://www.cbs.unm.edu/CGC/Nomenclature/no menguid.htm For approved S. cerevisiae and S. pombe symbols see http://yeastgenome.org/help/yeastGeneNomenclature.shtml and http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Projects/S_pombe/SP_Name_FAQ.shtml, respectively Statistical analysis Statistical hypothesis and methods should be described in detail. Actual P values should be used unless less than 0.001. Reporting of 95% confidence intervals is encouraged. The choice of appropriate parametric or nonparametric tools has to be justified. Refer to B.S. Everettt. Statistical Methods for Medica Investigations, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989.

3. Is your article approaching new findings?

Scientific novelty of your study must be clearly demonstrated. The articles limited with a repetition of well-known data or identification of only well-known ubiquitous compounds with little or no relation to activity are not acceptable.

4. Is your article relevant to clinical medicine?

Your article must be based on a thorough study, using proper controls and convincing evidences of therapeutic significance and observations.

Not acceptable are: In vitro studies with concentrations of active compounds, which could not be implemented in-vivo and that are not appropriate for further pharmaceutical development. In vitro studies without results on organs, tissues, fluids or cells. In vitro studies without positive control. In vivo single dose studies or studies with one set of experiments and few animals. Studies on antimicrobial activity with only single dose, very high concentration, measuring only inhibition zones without MIC values, without information on type of activity (or growth inhibition) or microorganisms investigation. Pharmacological studies of pure compounds, which are not supported by evidences on pharmacological activity of plant extract where it was identified.

5. Does your article meet the requirements to clinical and pharmacological studies?

Your article must comply with the basic criteria for conducting and reporting clinical and pharmacological studies.


Articles should be in line with Extensions of the Consolidated Standards

Requirements for pharmacological studies (in vitro, ex vivo or in vivo): Investigations with animals must state in the Methods section that the research was conducted in accordance with internationally accepted principles for laboratory animal use and care (e.g. European community guidelines/ EEC Directive of 1986 or the US guidelines/ NIH publication). The route of drug administration, different of oral, must be justified. Appropriate and justified statistical methods must be used. Positive controls (reference standards must be included in study design). Many natural compounds are known for their polyvalent (pleiotropic) activities and are only of interest if one or two pharmacological activities are dominant and somehow superior in comparison with generally accepted reference standards/compounds. Their potential therapeutic application must be justified for specified indication. Antimicrobial evaluation of plants are of scientific value only if these plant extracts show superior biological activities in comparison with a synthetic or natural antimicrobial agent standard. It is preferred that in vitro activity (MIC) of an extract in not higher than 100 μg/ml. For the correct determination of MIC values, standardized methodologies such as those of CLSI or EUCAST are preferred. All articles that are reporting gene expression profiling data (microarray experiments) should comply with the Minimum Information about Microarray Experiments (MIAME, http://www.mged.org/Workgroups/MIAME/miame.html). At least two microarrays should be provided for each experimental condition. Results of selected genes should be validated by a second method (e.g. RT-PCR) or protein data should be provided. In addition functional test (animal experiments/clinical data) undertaken simultaneously are desirable to allow an appraisal of the biological/clinical relevance of the data. Alternatively, results of in vivo experiments with comparable dosages can be discussed. The presentation of a sole data collection is not acceptable. Biologically relevant information should be presented. We recommend do not overuse specific names, notions and terms from various theories of traditional medical systems (e.g. TCM, Ayurveda, etc.). That makes articles difficult for perceptions and understanding. The essence of these theories should be translated into internationally accepted scientific theories, while traditional names and terms should be converted to English. Final interpretation of the results of the study must adhere to conventional scientific theories.

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**Types of manuscript**

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Articles should not exceed **12-15 typewritten pages** or up to **5,000 words**, including references, tables and figures. Previously reported methods should be referenced only. The number of references should not exceed 30 (except for review articles or reports on microarray data).

**Short communications**
Short communications should be condensed to **4-8 typewritten pages** or not more than **2,500 words** including references and a maximum of two illustrations.

**Review articles**
Review articles will only be by invitation. Review articles can provide concise and critical updates on a subject of current interest. Herbal drug-monographs are only acceptable if they contain the newest pharmacological and toxicological issues and an outlook on future directions.

**Prof. Hildebert Wagner Award**
The "Prof. Hildebert Wagner Award" was created to honor the outstanding efforts of Prof. Wagner for the journal Phytomedicine. This award will be granted to a graduate student or young post-doctoral researcher who is the first author of a paper reviewed by the Editors of Phytomedicine to be the best one in the Journal during the previous calendar year. The prize will be sponsored by Elsevier with EUR 500 for the awardee and a certificate for every Co-Author. Additionally an official notice will be published on the journal homepage of Phytomedicine ([https://www.elsevier.com/locate/phymed](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/phymed)), on which the article will be available free of charge for one year. The reviewing editors for the first contribution to be awarded in Phytomedicine will be Prof. Hildebert Wagner himself, Prof. Alexander Panossian, and Prof. Susana Zacchino. To qualify, nominees must be younger than 35 years and an outstanding contribution to the field must be provided. Nominations can be made by first authors (resp. corresponding authors).
Nominations for the first "Prof. Hildebert Wagner Award" in 2016 can be done until June 30, 2016. The announcement of the winner will be by end of October 2016. Please choose Award-Article from the drop-down menu below, if you want your article to be considered for the Award.

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This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of one independent expert reviewer to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

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**Example:**

**Anti-stress effects of 20(S)-protopanaxadiol and 20(S)-protopanaxatriol in immobilized mice**

Hyun A Oh\textsuperscript{a}, Dae-Eung Kim\textsuperscript{b}, Hyuck Jai Choi\textsuperscript{c}, Nam Jae Kim\textsuperscript{c}, and Dong-Hyun Kima\textsuperscript{c,}*\textsuperscript{**}

\textsuperscript{a} Department of Life and Nanopharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Kyung Hee University, 26, Kyungheedaero, Dongdaemun-ku, Seoul 130-701, Republic of Korea

\textsuperscript{b} Sempio Foods Company, 183, Osongsaengmyung-4ro, Cheongwongun, Chungcheongbukdo 363-954, Republic of Korea

\textsuperscript{c} East-West Medical Research Institute, Kyung Hee University Medical Center, 23, Kyungheedaero, Dongdaemun-ku, Seoul 130-872, Republic of Korea

* Corresponding author

Dong-Hyun Kim, Department of Life and Nanopharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Kyung Hee University, 26, Kyungheedaero, Dongdaemun-ku, Seoul 130-701, Republic of Korea

Tel.: +82 2 961 0374; fax: +82 2 957 5030.

E-mail address: dhkim@khu.ac.kr (D.H. Kim).

**The phone, fax and email address of the corresponding author should be placed on the title page.

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Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

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A concise and factual abstract is required. Abstracts should summarize the contents of the article in 350 words or less. The abstract should be structured in the following format:
Background: In one or two sentences, summarize the scientific body of knowledge surrounding your study and how this led to your investigation.

Hypothesis/Purpose: State the theory(ies) that you are attempting to prove or disprove by your study or the purpose if no hypothesis exists.

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