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Letter to the Editor

Polydatin and COVID-19

Dear Editor,

I would like to share ideas on the publication “Polydatin and its potential protective effect on COVID-19”. Bonucci et al. concluded that “it is reasonable to suggest the phytochemical polydatin as preventative (co-) treatment for individual at risk of COVID-19, as (asymptomatic or pauci-symptomatic) relatives and contacts of swap positive confirmed case [1].” The advantage of plant derived natural products for managing COVID-19 is interesting. *Polygonum Cuspidatum* is a general plant in many Asian countries (such as China, Korea and Japan) [2]. This crop is a part of many local foods. The plant is proven for possible gastrointestinal cytoprotective effect but the antiviral properties are not well demonstrated [2]. If the plant has any protective effect, there should be some reports on low incidence in those Asian countries but there are many COVID-19 infected cases in those countries. Theoretically, if a herb might be useful for managing COVID-19, there should be a biological process induced by the plant that can directly manipulate the pathobiological process of the pathogenic virus. The good examples are reported in many herbal plants [3]. For *Polygonum Cuspidatum*, there is still no identified mechanism that is proven useful containment of the viral disease.

Conflict of interest

None.

References

- [1] Bonucci M, Raggi R, Vacca RA. Polydatin and its potential protective effect on COVID-19. *Clin Nutr* 2020 Oct 8;S0261–5614(20):30524–30. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clnu.2020.09.052> [Online ahead of print].
- [2] Kim YS, Nam Y, Song J, Kim H. Gastroprotective and healing effects of *polygonum cuspidatum* root on experimentally induced gastric ulcers in rats. *Nutrients* 2020 Jul 27;12(8):2241.
- [3] Sriwijitalai W, Wiwanitkit V. Herbs that might be effective for the management of COVID-19: a bioinformatics analysis on anti-tyrosine kinase property. *J Res Med Sci* 2020;25:44.

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