

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1: This review refers to plant-based Chinese medicines considered useful for the treatment of COVID-19. A list of 15 medications is proposed, with each medicine analyzed and discussed. In fact, most of them have revealed activities against the clinical symptoms of COVID-19, not against the virus infection per se. These TCM are supportive medicine (to treat fever, fatigue, etc), not effective antiviral agents. This point should be clearly underlined. These CM can be useful to treat mild symptoms of COVID-19 essentially.

Response 1: Thanks for the suggestions. We have listed the CM treatment for COVID-19 based on the clinical stage of disease and syndrome differentiation in the revised manuscript in the table 1-2. We have also listed the active ingredients of CM which have anti-viral effect against SARS-Cov 2 and therapeutic effect on COVID-19 in Table 3 based on the reviewer's suggestion. (See Page 6, line 142-146 and Page 29, 30-31,32-34)

Comment 2: The individual presentation of each CM is OK but the medications are evaluated very distinctly from one to another and no comparison can be made. Which is the most active, the most promising to reduce symptoms? In some cases, clinical data are available, but not for all. Table 1 is insufficient, incomplete. It should enumerate the TCM for which there are clinical data and provide quantitative information about the supposed efficacy.

Response 2: Thanks for the constructive suggestion. We have revised this part and rearranged the contents by listing the CM formulas and their therapeutic efficacy, the active ingredients to reduced symptom in Table 2 and Table 3 in the revised

manuscript. (see Page 30-34).

Comment 3: Each CM is analyzed separately. A short discussion could be added to refer to specific ingredients (such as liquorice) present in different preparations and to mention/discuss possible active ingredients (such as glycyrrhizin).

Response 3: We have added the common constituents and active ingredients in CMs for the treatment of COVID-19, followed by discussion in the revised manuscript. (see Page17, line 456-490; Page 19, line 522-523; Page 35).

Comment 4: The lack of illustration makes the manuscript heavy to read and not always easy. The addition of a minimum of 2-3 Figures would make the Ms much more pleasant to read and to convey the essential messages.

Response 4: Thank for the suggestion. We have added 3 figures in the revised manuscript to diversify the content. (see Page29- 35).

Comment 5: The English language needs to be revised, in part. There are errors and improper grammar, including in the abstract. There are also typing errors (caused, line 50); check spelling carefully.

Response 5: Thanks for your critical comments. We have carefully checked the use of English and corrected typos in the revised manuscript. (see Page 3, line 55).

Comment 6: Lines 53-54: where the numbers (176,156,662/3,815,486) come from? Add reference.

Response 6: The numbers in the manuscript came from World Health Organization Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have added the reference in the revised manuscript. (see Page 3, line 59; page 22, line 596).

Reviewer B

Comment 1: I consider that this article on the use of Chinese medicines COVID-19 fits well to the standard of *Longshua Chinese Medicine*, but one caveat need to be addressed: the authors should comments on the effects of individual molecules found in traditional Chinese medicine against SARS-Cov 2 and also against the symptoms of COVID-19. It would greatly improve the quality of this review.

Response 1: Thanks for the valuable comment. We have listed the active ingredients of CM with therapeutic effect on SARS-Cov 2 & COVID-19 in Table 3. Discussion on therapeutic effect on COVID-19 of these active ingredients has also been incorporated in the revised manuscript (see Page17, line 456-490; Page 32).