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A 90-day Repeated Dose Toxicity Study of Scrophularia Root in Rats

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The root of Scrophularia buergeriana Miquel (Scrophularia root) has been used as an oriental medicine ingredient to treat fever, swelling, pharyngitis, neuritis, and laryngitis. This study was performed to determine toxicity of Scrophularia root for a period of 90 consecutive days in Sprague Dawley (SD) rats and to evaluate safety for the Scrophularia root as food material. On the preliminary test (14-day repeated dose toxicity test) to determine the adequate dosage of Scrophularia root extract powder, the test item was orally administered to male and female SD rats at the dosage of 0, 250, 500 and 1,000mg/kg/day. Our studies showed that, there was no treatment-related toxicity founded at the high concentration level such as 1,000mg/kg/day. Therefore, the dosage for 90-day injected toxicity was established as 0, 250, 500 and 1,000mg/kg/day. There was no sign of treatment-related change on the body weight, food consumption level and hematological finding. Decreases in relative liver weight were observed in both male and female rats administered Scrophularia root extract by gavage. However, there was no sign of histopathological abnormalities. There was no treatment-related findings in the scheduled necropsy or the histopathological examinations. From theses findings, safety of the Scrophularia root has remain unclear base on our findings.

Keyword: Scrophularia rot, 90-day repeated dose toxicity