Hepatoprotective Effects of *Panus giganteus* (Berk.) Corner against Thioacetamide- (TAA-) Induced Liver Injury in Rats

Wei Lun Wong,1,2 Mahmood Ameen Abdullah,1,2 Kah Heng Chua,1,3 Umali Rani Kuppusamy,1,2 Yee Shin Tan,1,2 and Vildreswary Subramaniam1,2

1Mushroom Research Centre, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2Institute of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya, 58690 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3Department of Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, 50603 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Abstract

*Panus giganteus*, a culinary and medicinal mushroom consumed by selected indigenous communities in Malaysia, is currently being considered for large scale cultivation. This study was undertaken to investigate the hepatoprotective effects of *P. giganteus* against thioacetamide- (TAA-) induced liver injury in Sprague-Dawley rats. The rats were injected intraperitoneally with TAA thrice weekly and were orally administered freeze-dried fruiting bodies of *P. giganteus* (0.5 or 1 g/kg) daily for two months, while control rats were given vehicle or *P. giganteus* only. After 60 days, rats administered with *P. giganteus* showed lower liver body weight ratio, restored levels of serum liver biomarkers and oxidative stress parameters comparable to treatment with the standard drug silymarin. Gross necropsy and histopathological examination further confirmed the hepatoprotective effects of *P. giganteus*. This is the first report on hepatoprotective effects of *P. giganteus*. The present study showed that *P. giganteus* was able to prevent or reduce the severity of TAA-induced liver injury.

1. Introduction