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To the Editor of Functional Foods in Health and Disease (FFHD)

Dear Editor,

I am enclosing herewith our manuscript entitled "Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities of Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) tea" by Phyu Phyu Khine Zar, Kozue Sakao, Fumio Hashimoto, Akiko Morishita, Makoto Fujii and De-Xing Hou. All of the authors listed are aware of and agree to the contents of the paper. Neither the submitted paper nor any similar paper has been or will be submitted to any other

journal. Loquat tea is made from roasted loquat leaves. Accumulated data revealed that loquat leaves showed health benefits including biodefense enhancement although the molecular evidence is poor. In this study, we investigated the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities of loquat tea in vitro and in cultural cells. Our showed that roasted loquat tea extract (LTE) possessed stronger DPPH scavenging activity and inhibitory effects on ROS production. Moreover, LTE suppressed the production of pro-inflammatory mediators such as cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) in LPS-activated RAW 264.7 cells. Chemical characterization by HPLC, FT-IR and NMR indicated that the bioactive components in LTE might be new phenolic compounds, which were produced during the roasted processes of fresh loquat leaves. We would be grateful if the manuscript could be considered for publication in Journal of Functional Foods in Health and Disease (FFHD) as research article.

Sincerely

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