Conference abstract PO-59

**Actein Possesses Strong Sedative and Anxiolytic Effects *in vivo***

**S. Khom**¹, **I. Rosskothen**², **I. Baburin**¹, **C. Schwarzer**², **S. Hering**¹

¹ Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Vienna, Althanstraße 14, 1090 Vienna, Austria
² Department of Pharmacology, Innsbruck Medical University, Peter-Mayr-Str. 1a, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria
E-mail: sophia.khom@univie.ac.at (S. Khom)


Extracts of *Actaea racemosa* are frequently used for the treatment of postmenopausal disorders. The mechanism of action, however, remains unclear. In the present study, potential sedative and anxiolytic effects of actein were analysed *in vivo* in a mouse model. Actein (6 mg/kg BW) significantly decreased the spontaneous motor activity of mice in the open field paradigm. Moreover, actein at concentrations ≥ 0.2 mg/kg BW slightly increased the time spent and the visits in the open arms in the elevated-plus-maze test and significantly increased the time spent in the brightly lit area in the light-dark-choice test. A significant decrease of ΔT caused by 6 and 20 mg/kg BW actein was observed in the stress-induced hyperthermia test. These data suggest that actein possesses *in vivo* sedative and anxiolytic properties that might contribute to the benefits of *Actaea racemosa* extracts in the treatment of postmenopausal disorders.

Presented at the 21st Scientific Congress of the Austrian Pharmaceutical Society
April 16th to April 18th 2009, Vienna, Austria.