

## A note on *Ostericum koreanum*

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### To the Editor

I read with interest the article entitled: "Anti-tumor activity of oxypeucedanin from *Ostericum koreanum* against human prostate carcinoma DU145 cells" *Acta Oncologica* 2009; 48: 895–900 [1]. This article is quite interesting and the authors should be complimented for the great amount of work they have done. The purpose of this letter is to call attention to the need for some clarification on the name of the plant described in this article. Kang et al. state: "*Ostericum koreanum* (Umbelliferae) has traditionally been used in oriental medicine as an analgesic" and "The root of *Ostericum koreanum* (Umbelliferae), which was cultivated in Kangwon Province, Korea". I have been studying the pharmacotoxicological properties of the medicinal plants of Asia and the Pacific for the last 15 years [2–6] and the sole medicinal members of the genus *Ostericum* Hoffm. officially recognized in China, Korea and Japan are *O. citriodorum* (Hance) C.Q. Yuan & Shan, *O. grosseserratum* (Maxim.) Kitag., *O. scaberulum* (Franch.) C.Q. Yuan & Shan, *O. sieboldii* (Miq.) Nakai and *O. viridiflorum* (Turcz.) Kitag. [7].

*Ostericum koreanum* does not exist and is not used in oriental medicine as an analgesic.

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### References

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