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<u>TOP</u> > <u>Available Issues</u> > <u>Table of Contents</u> > Abstract	
	ONLINE ISSN : 1881-3984
	PRINT ISSN: 1344-6606
Food Science and Technology Research	
Vol. 14 (2008), No. 6 pp.589	

Effects of Hanabiratake (*Sparassis crispa*) on Allergic Rhinitis in OVA-Sensitized Mice

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(Received: September 24, 2007) (Accepted: August 15, 2008)

The anti-rhinitis properties of *Sparassis crispa* were investigated in mice. To examine the immunomodulative activity of oral administration of *S. crispa*, splenocytes obtained from ovalbumin-sensitized BALB/c mice fed *S. crispa* were restimulated *in vitro* with the same antigen. Oral administration of *S. crispa* induced IFN-γ, but inhibited IL-4 and IL-5 secretion, and suppressed ovalbumin-specific IgE secretion by ovalbumin-stimulated splenocytes. The effects of *S. crispa* were further investigated by using the allergic rhinitis model in BALB/c mice. Nasal symptoms, sneezing and nasal rubbing induced by ovalbumin challenges were inhibited by oral administration of *S. crispa* in a dose-dependent manner. Furthermore, ovalbumin-specific serum IgE levels were diminished in this model. These results demonstrated that *S. crispa* may be effective in suppressing symptoms of allergic rhinitis through its immunomodulating activities.

Keywords: allergic rhinitis, cytokines, hanabiratake, ovalbumin-specific IgE, Sparassis crispa

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Effects of Hanabiratake (*Sparassis crispa*) on Allergic Rhinitis in OVA-Sensitized Mice Masafumi YAO, Kyosuke YAMAMOTO, Takashi KIMURA and Munehiko DOMBO, *FSTR*. Vol. **14**, 589. (2008) .

doi:10.3136/fstr.14.589 JOI JST.JSTAGE/fstr/14.589

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