

## Comment on Protective Effects of Anthocyanins against Amyloid $\beta$ -Peptide-Induced Damage in Neuro-2A Cells

I read with interest the paper of Shih et al. in *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2011**, *59*, 1683–1689.<sup>1</sup> This paper is quite interesting, and the authors should be complimented for the significant 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 paper. Shih et al. state “Notably, our group observed that anthocyanin-rich extracts derived from mulberry (*Morus atropurpurea* L.)”.<sup>1</sup> I have been studying the pharmacotoxicological properties of the medicinal plants of Asia and the Pacific for the past 15 years, and *Morus atropurpurea* L. does not exist.<sup>2–5</sup> Besides, mulberry refers to as many as 10 species, principally *Morus alba* L.<sup>6</sup> In addition, the statement “These findings suggest that colorful anthocyanins may have considerable potential for preventing A $\beta$ -mediated neurodysfunction” is quite not appropriate. Such a statement should really be made after provisions of pharmacokinetical, pharmacotoxicological, anatomopathological, and epidemiological evidence. In fact, anthocyanins and flavonoids *sensu lato* have attracted considerable interest due to claimed health-promoting properties, but current evidence suggests that the amount of intact flavonoids that reach target cells in the human body is therapeutically negligible.<sup>7–9</sup>

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### AUTHOR INFORMATION

#### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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