

# Isolation of a Wild *Morchella* spp. Strain and the Effects of its Extract on Ethanol-Induced Gastric Mucosal Lesions in Rats

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A *Morchella* spp. strain was isolated from a wild morel mushroom, and the effects of its mycelia extract on the ethanol-induced gastric mucosal lesions of rats were investigated *in vivo*. Sequence analysis of internal transcribed spacer suggested that this *Morchella* spp. strain (strain No. M1) was clustered together with *M. conica* in the phylogenetic tree. The superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity increased significantly compared to the control. However, the malondialdehyde (MDA) level and myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity decreased significantly compared to the control. These results indicated that M1 is one member of *M. conica* and the protective effects of M1 extract against the ethanol-induced gastric lesions may be related to the increased SOD activity and decreased MDA level and MPO activity in rats.

**Key words:** *Morchella* sp., Ethanol-Induced Gastric Lesion, Malondialdehyde, Superoxide Dismutase