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Summary

Chikusaku-eki and Mokusaku-eki are an acidic dark brown liquid obtained as a by-product from wood charcoal burners. Both of them, diluted by water, are used as a folk medicine for skin diseases such as scabies, eczema, and atopic dermatitis. Here, the carcinogenic and tumor-promoting potentials of both folk remedies obtained from various makers were determined by using the BALB/c 3T3 A31-1-1 in vitro transformation assay system. All of them tested here were non-carcinogenic when applied at 0.1%. On the other hand, three of eight samples showed a suppressive effect on tumor-promotion. Thus, Chikusaku-eki and Mokusaku-eki are non-carcinogenic or incidentally anti-carcinogenic in the in vitro transformation assay when diluted to 1/1,000.