

Editor Comment:

Some actions need to be addressed by authors as follows: 1) to increase the quality of Figure 3; 2) to explain why SEC was chosen as second chromatographic step; this (SEC + affinity chromatography) seems not to be a logical order of chromatography; regarding MW of 40 kDa after SEC, I would recommend the expression *apparent molecular weight* of 40 kDa; and 3) to improve the English language for better understanding of the manuscript by readers.

Author's Feedback:

New revisions in text are highlighted in green

Quality of Figure 2 and 3 were improved (400 dpi TIF files were saved as JPG).

SEC & Affinity chromatography

The APs studied were minor proteins. Aim of using affinity chromatography after two other chromatography methods was to remove bulk of impurities from large volume of crude ovarian extract using larger columns at a lower cost. Affinity chromatography was conducted using smaller columns with partially purified fractions as the last step to achieve high level of purity (with more refined fractionation). Following reference [10] was cited in the methods (2.2) in which the same order of fractionation was followed.

10. Athauda S, Matsumoto K, Rajapakshe S, Kuribayashi M, Kojima M, Kubomura-Yoshida N *et al.*. Enzymic and structural characterization of nepenthesin, a unique member of a novel subfamily of aspartic proteinases. *Biochemical Journal*. 2004; 381, 295-306.

"Each concentrated sample was applied to a Sephacryl S-200 column (3.1 cm×114 cm) equilibrated with Buffer A and 0.2 M NaCl. The active fractions were pooled and dialysed against 0.02 M sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.0) and applied to a pepstatin–Sephrose column (1.3 cm×1.6 cm) equilibrated with the same buffer."

English

English language was improved with the assistance of Coordinator/ English Language Teaching Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.