

Food & Function

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1 **Abbreviations:**

2 AChE, Acetylcholine esterase; CAT, Catalase; CYP2E1, Cytochrome P450 2E1;
3 GPX, Glutathione peroxidase; IL-6, Interleukin-6; MAO, Monoamine oxidase; MDA,
4 Malondialdehyde; NR2B, N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor 2B subunit; QE, Quercitrin;
5 ROS, Reactive oxygen species; SOD, superoxide dismutase; t-PA, Tissue-type
6 plasminogen activator; TNF- α , tumor necrosis factor.

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ABSTRACT

1
2 Quercitrin is one of the primary flavonoid compounds present in vegetable and fruits.
3 The aim of present study was to evaluate the effects of quercitrin against carbon
4 tetrachloride (CCl₄) induced brain injury and further to elucidate its probable
5 mechanisms. ICR mice received intraperitoneally CCl₄ with or without quercitrin
6 co-administration for 4 weeks. Our data showed that quercitrin significantly
7 suppressed the elevation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) production and
8 malondialdehyde (MDA) content, reduced tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) activity,
9 enhanced the antioxidant enzyme activities and abrogated cytochrome P450 2E1
10 (CYP2E1) induction in mouse brains. Quercitrin also prevented CCl₄ induced cerebral
11 function disorders associated with its ability to inhibit the activities of monoamine
12 oxidase (MAO), acetylcholine esterase (AChE) and N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor 2B
13 subunit (NR2B). In addition, western blot analysis showed that quercitrin suppressed
14 the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α)
15 and interleukin-6 (IL-6). Taken together, our findings suggested that quercitrin may be
16 potential to be developed as a neuroprotective agent.

17 **Keywords:** Quercitrin; CCl₄; Brain; Oxidative stress; Inflammation; Dysfunction

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1 Introduction

2 Flavonoids possess antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities, readily permeate
3 the blood–brain barrier and afford neuroprotection in a wide array of cellular and
4 animal models of neurological diseases.^{1,2} Flavonoids are ubiquitous plant secondary
5 products, which are produced in response to diverse environmental cues. In plants,
6 naringenin was converted into dihydroflavonols. Dihydroflavonols was converted by
7 flavonol synthase into flavonols. Flavonols were further glucosylated to flavonol
8 glycosides.³ Quercetin is the most abundant bioflavonoid found in vegetable and fruits,
9 which exists primarily in its glycoside form as quercitrin (3-rhamnoside). The sugar
10 portion bound to the aglycone portion in quercitrin (QE) increases its solubility in
11 polar solvents and consequently improves absorption.^{1,2} The quercitrin is known to
12 have biological effects such as anti-oxidative, anti-inflammatory, anti-apoptosis
13 effects.^{4,5} Quercitrin might be more potent antioxidant and neuroprotective agent than
14 quercetin due to its high bioavailability in the digestive track.^{6,7} Previous report
15 indicated that quercitrin significantly reduced acute systemic inflammation in
16 LPS-induced models as well as attenuate inflammation in the livers of mice.⁷
17 Quercitrin could also reduce inflammation and apoptosis in cytokine-induced models.⁸
18 In streptozotocin (STZ)-induced diabetic models, quercitrin display organ protective
19 properties in pancreas, liver and kidney by improving the antioxidant status.⁵

20 Carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) is a well-known toxic compound. Administration of
21 CCl₄ to animal is an accepted experimental model to produce damage to hepatic and
22 other tissues.¹⁰ CCl₄ can cause damage to the brain through lipid peroxidation,
23 resulting in an up-regulation of pro-inflammatory pathways and the alterations of the
24 neurotransmission system.^{11,12} Recent studies from our laboratory showed that
25 puerarin (a natural flavonoid) could attenuate CCl₄-induced oxidative stress and
26 inflammation in kidney.¹² However, the molecular mechanisms of CCl₄-induced brain
27 injury and neuroprotective effects of quercitrin are not yet completely understood. In
28 the present study, we aimed to determine whether the dietary uptake of quercitrin can
29 protect mouse brain from CCl₄-induced injury by inhibiting oxidative stress and

1 inflammation. In addition, we investigated whether the protective mechanism of
2 quercitrin associated with the activities of tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA),
3 monoamine oxidase (MAO), acetylcholine esterase (AChE) and N-methyl-D-aspartate
4 receptor 2B subunit (NR2B).

5 **2 Materials and methods**

6 **2.1 Chemicals and reagents**

7 Quercitrin and CCl₄ were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO,
8 USA). anti-IL-6 antibody, anti-TNF- α antibody and anti-NR2B antibody are from
9 Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Santa Cruz, CA, USA) or Cell Signaling Technology
10 (Beverly, MA, USA). All other reagents unless indicated were obtained from Sigma
11 Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO, USA).

12 **2.2 Animals and treatment**

13 Male ICR mice (20–25g) were obtained from the Branch of National Breeder
14 Center of Rodents (Beijing). The animals were maintained in an animal facility at
15 20–22 °C under 40–60 % relative humidity and a 12/12 h (light/dark) cycle.

16 After acclimation for 1 week, forty mice were randomly divided into four groups.
17 Brain injury was induced by intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection of 2 ml of CCl₄ in olive oil
18 (1:1, v/v) per kg body weight twice weekly for up to 4 week¹³. Mice in Group 1 were
19 given twice weekly injections of pernut oil (vehicle control) and received water
20 containing 0.5% carboxymethylcellulose sodium by oral gavage; mice in Group 2
21 were injected with CCl₄ and received water containing 0.5% carboxymethylcellulose
22 sodium by oral gavage; mice in Group 3 and Group 4 were injected with CCl₄, as in
23 group 2, and administered with quercitrin (50 and 100 mg/kg body-weight, suspended
24 in 0.5% carboxymethylcellulose sodium daily) by oral gavage, respectively. The choice
25 of quercitrin dose is based on previous findings¹⁴

26 At the end of treatment, the mouse brains were used for the biochemical analysis
27 and western-blot evaluations. The brain tissue were quickly collected for
28 experiments and placed in ice-cold 0.9% NaCl solution, perfused with the
29 physiological saline solution to remove blood cells, blotted on filter paper. Then, the

1 removed brain were immediately collected for experiments or stored at -70°C for
2 later use.

3 This research was conducted in accordance with the Chinese laws on the use and
4 care of laboratory animals. The committees for animal experiments of Jiangsu
5 Normal University and Sichuan University of Science and Engineering approved
6 these experiments.

7 **2.3 Biochemical analysis**

8 ROS was measured as described previously, based on the oxidation of
9 2'7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate to 2'7'-dichloro-fluorescein.¹³ ROS
10 formation was quantified from a DCF-standard curve and data are expressed as pmol
11 DCF formed/min/ mg protein. The activities of superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase
12 (CAT), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), monoamine oxidase (MAO) and acetylcholine
13 esterase (AChE) in the hippocampus homogenates were measured using the
14 commercial kits (Jiancheng Institute of Biotechnology, Nanjing, China).

15 The malondialdehyde (MDA) concentration in the hippocampus homogenates
16 were measured by the thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) assay in
17 accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (MDA: A003-1, Jiancheng
18 Biochemical Institute, Nanjing, China) and the absorbance was measured at a
19 wavelength of 532 nm.

20 **2.4 Functionally active t-PA activity assay**

21 Functionally active t-PA was determined using the active t-PA ELISA Kit according
22 to the manufacturer's instructions.¹⁵ The amount of color development is directly
23 proportional to the concentration of active t-PA in the sample.

24 **2.5 Western blot analysis**

25 Western blot analysis was performed by our previous method.^{16,17} Nuclear and
26 cytoplasmic extracts for western blotting were obtained by using a
27 nuclear/cytoplasmic isolation kit (Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology, Beijing,
28 China). Protein levels in the hippocampus homogenates were determined using the
29 BCA assay kit (Pierce Biotechnology, Inc., Rockford, IL, USA).

1 2.6 Statistic analysis

2 All statistical analyses were performed using the SPSS software, version 11.5. A
3 one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA; $P < 0.05$) was used to determine significant
4 differences between groups and the individual comparisons were obtained by
5 Turkey's HSD post hoc test. Statistical significance was set at $P \leq 0.05$.

6 3 Results

7 3.1 Quercitrin Inhibited CCl₄-induced Oxidative Stress in Mouse Brains

8 To investigate whether quercitrin can attenuate the oxidative stress damage in the
9 brain of CCl₄-treated mice, we measured the concentrations of ROS and MDA
10 (Figure 2). The results showed that the levels of ROS and MDA were highly
11 increased by 107.28% and 80.04% in the brains of CCl₄-treated group compared
12 with the control group, respectively ($P < 0.01$). However, treatment with quercitrin
13 dose-dependently decreased the levels of ROS and MDA (by 30.78%, 40.03% and
14 27.24%, 43.15%, respectively) compared with CCl₄ treatment ($P < 0.01$).

15 3.2 Quercitrin Inhibited the CYP2E1 Level in Brains of CCl₄-treated Mice

16 In order to determine whether quercitrin can inhibit CCl₄-induced the brain injury,
17 we examined the CYP2E1 level of in mouse brains. As shown in Figure 3, CCl₄
18 treatment caused significant increase in the CYP2E1 level by 363.21% in mouse
19 brains as compared with that of the control group ($P < 0.01$). Interestingly, treatment
20 with quercitrin dose-dependently decreased the CYP2E1 level by 43.23% and
21 72.19% compared with CCl₄ treatment, respectively ($P < 0.01$).

22 3.3 Quercitrin Increased the Activities of SOD, CAT and GPX in Mouse Brains

23 During the pathological process of CCl₄-induced brain injury, reductions in
24 antioxidant enzyme activities play important roles¹⁰. CCl₄ administration
25 significantly decreased the activities of SOD, CAT and GPX in mouse brains by
26 24.26%, 43.57% and 24.98%, respectively, when compared to those in control group
27 ($P < 0.01$). However, pretreatment with low-dose and high-dose of quercitrin
28 remarkably ameliorated the depletion of the SOD, CAT and GPX activities (Figure
29 4).

1 **3.4 Quercitrin Decreased the t-PA Activity in Brains of CCl₄-treated Mice**

2 As shown in Figure 5A, quercitrin also prevented the increase of the t-PA
3 activity in the brain homogenates of the mice treated with CCl₄. The t-PA activity in
4 CCl₄-treated group was significantly higher (by 40.47%) than the control group ($P <$
5 0.01). However, the treatment with low-dose and high-dose of quercitrin alongside
6 CCl₄ reduced the t-PA activity by 17.68% and 25.96% in the brains of the mice,
7 respectively.

8 **3.5 Quercitrin Inhibited the NR2B level in Brain of CCl₄-treated Mice**

9 NR2B play critical roles in brain functions and diseases. In this study, NR2B
10 protein immunocontent was examined by western blot analysis on the hippocampus
11 homogenates from mice. The results showed that the NR2B level in brain was notably
12 increased in the CCl₄-treated mice as compared with that of the control group (Figure
13 5B). Interestingly, treatment with low and high dose of quercitrin significantly
14 down-regulated the NR2B level (by 35.53% and 58.89%, respectively) compared with
15 CCl₄ treatment ($P < 0.01$).

16 **3.6 Quercitrin Decreased the Activities of MAO and AChE in Brain of** 17 **CCl₄-treated Mice**

18 AChE and MAO play an important role in the central nervous system (CNS). In
19 order to determine whether quercitrin can attenuate the neurotransmitter system
20 damage in the brain of CCl₄-treated mice, we measured the activities of AChE and
21 MAO. The results were shown in Figure 6. The CCl₄ markedly increased activities of
22 AChE and MAO in mouse brain hippocampus by 58.17% and 72.29% than the
23 control group ($P < 0.01$). However, treatment with quercitrin dose-dependently
24 decreased the activities of AChE and MAO (by 30.25%, 37.66% and 25.31%, 34.33%,
25 respectively) compared with CCl₄ treatment ($P < 0.01$).

26 **3.7 Quercitrin Reduced the Production of Brain Inflammatory Cytokines of** 27 **CCl₄-treated Mice**

28 To examine the effect of quercitrin treatment on the CCl₄-induced inflammatory
29 cytokines, the hippocampus protein immunocontents of TNF- α and IL-6 were
30 measured using western blot analysis. As shown in Figure 7, the production of both

1 TNF- α and IL-6 were significantly increased by in the brains of CCl₄-treated group,
2 compared to those in the control group. However, these increases were attenuated by
3 quercitrin treatment ($P < 0.01$).

4 **4 Discussion**

5 The brain is an organ with a high metabolic rate that relies mainly on aerobic
6 metabolism, which inevitably produced ROS.¹⁵ CCl₄ has been extensively used in
7 experimental models to elucidate the cellular mechanisms behind oxidative damage
8 and inflammation^{18, 19}. In the present study, the effect of quercitrin treatment on
9 CCl₄ induced brain injury was investigated using a mouse model. Our results
10 demonstrated that treatment with quercitrin significantly ameliorated brain injury
11 induced by CCl₄. This protective effect was associated with its ability to inhibit
12 oxidative stress, inflammation and the neurotransmitter system damage.

13 The brain is especially sensitive to oxidative stress. Moreover, neuronal cells are
14 rich in polyunsaturated fatty acid, which are prone to lipid peroxidation by ROS.¹⁵
15 Cytochrome P450, in particular, CYP2E1, is characterized as a free enzyme with
16 high pro-oxidant activity, with a potential source of oxidative stress. CCl₄ can be
17 activated by cytochrome P450 enzyme, to form the trichloromethyl radical CCl₃[•] and
18 trichloromethyl peroxy radical CCl₃OO[•], which leads to lipid peroxidation and
19 subsequent tissue damage.¹¹ Our previous studies showed that CCl₄ induced
20 oxidative stress in liver and kidney.^{13,20} In this research, the results revealed the role
21 of lipid peroxidation in brain hippocampus accompanied with stimulating and
22 induction of CYP2E1 with sever oxidative stress status in CCl₄-treated mice, which
23 is characterized by high levels of ROS and MDA (Figure 2). Reports have shown
24 that quercitrin could suppress oxidative stress.^{2,5} The present study showed that
25 quercitrin significant decreased the CYP2E1 level and the peroxidation product
26 MDA confirmed that treatment with quercitrin could effectively protect against the
27 brain oxidative stress induced by CCl₄ (Figure 2 and 3).

28 Primary antioxidant enzymes involved in direct elimination of free radicals are
29 superoxide dismutase (SOD) which removes O₂^{•-}, catalase (CAT) which converts

1 H₂O₂ to water (H₂O) and O₂, and glutathione peroxidase (Gpx) which helps in the
2 removal of H₂O₂, thereby preventing hydroxyl radical (OH[•]) formation.^{10,21} A
3 reduction in the activity of these enzymes is associated with the accumulation of
4 excess ROS, leading to deleterious effects such as loss of integrity and function of
5 cell membranes.^{10,19,22} In this study, the increase in ROS and MDA levels in brains
6 induced by CCl₄ suggests enhanced lipid peroxidation leading to tissue damage and
7 failure of antioxidant defense mechanism to prevent formation of excessive free
8 radicals.¹⁰ Interestingly, treatment with quercitrin restored the activities of these
9 antioxidant enzymes to near-normal levels in CCl₄-intoxicated mice. So, quercitrin
10 possibly confers its protective effect by restoring the activities of SOD, CAT and
11 GPx enzymes to near-normal levels, or by preventing decreases in the activities of
12 these enzymes (Figure 4).

13 Tissue-type plasminogen activator (t-PA), a serine-protease that activates
14 plasmin, endogenously produced in many types of cells.^{23,24} t-PA can convert
15 plasminogen into plasmin to dissolve clots and restore blood flow. t-PA also plays
16 important roles in maintaining the function of the brain blood barrier and has been
17 approved for clinical use.^{25,26} Several researches indicated broader and more
18 complex functions of the t-PA/plasmin system, an intriguing one being its role in the
19 central nervous system (CNS).^{15,26} Oxidative damage of neuronal cells has been
20 causatively implicated in multiple neurodegenerative diseases, in several of which
21 the PA/plasmin system has been involved.^{15,27} The PA/plasmin system has been
22 implicated in localized extracellular matrix remodeling in several pathophysiological
23 events, including CNS diseases, where oxidative stress plays a pivotal role.^{27,28}
24 Moreover, t-PA potentiates signaling mediated by glutamatergic receptors by
25 modifying the properties of the NMDA receptor.¹⁵ t-PA mediates cell signaling
26 effects through binding to cell surface molecule NMDA receptor.^{15,29} NMDA
27 receptor 2B (NR2B) subunits are essential for neurotransmission, neuronal
28 development and synaptic plasticity, and have been shown to be involved in learning
29 and memory abilities.^{26,30} Inhibition of NR2B receptors was found to reverse
30 signaling abnormalities and spine density as well as stereotyped behavior and

1 depression-like behavior in GluD1 KO mice.³¹ In the present study, the results
2 showed that CCl₄ increased the levels of active t-PA in rat brain homogenates
3 (Figure 5A), which were in agreement with previous reports.¹³ The injured neurons
4 in CCl₄ treated mice may provoke enhancement of localized t-PA activity through
5 formation of aggregates that facilitate t-PA binding in the injured area.³²
6 Alternatively, the induction of active t-PA in the brain was probably due to
7 transcriptional activation of the respective genes in neuronal or glial cells.¹⁵ This
8 results that quercitrin, like other flavonoids, decreased levels of t-PA activity, which
9 may be attributed to inhibited oxidative stress, decreased secretion of t-PA by
10 neuronal cells, decreased transcription of the t-PA gene in neuronal and glial cells, or
11 even to reduction in t-PA binding sites as a result of restricted neuronal damage.^{15,33}
12 The results of NR2B in brain hippocampus of CCl₄-treated mice were much higher
13 than these in the control group, suggesting that CCl₄ caused the neurotransmission
14 system dysfunction by affecting the function of NMDA receptors and some
15 glutamate (Glu) transporters.¹¹ While quercitrin may display the neuroprotective
16 effect associated with decreasing NR2B level in mice (Figure 5B).

17 Acetylcholine is considered as one of the important neurotransmitter implicated
18 in memory function. One of the major markers for cholinergic function is the
19 determination of AChE activity.³⁵ AChE hyperactivity can cause memory deficit in
20 animal model.¹⁰ Several studies reported that oxidative stress was related to the
21 AChE activity in the brain.^{35,36} In this study, CCl₄ markedly increased the AChE
22 activity and oxidative stress in the mouse brain, which was in agreement with the
23 previous research.¹⁰ Monoamine oxidase (MAO) plays a vital role in the inactivation
24 of neurotransmitters. MAO dysfunction (too much/too little MAO activity) is
25 thought to be responsible for various mental and neurodegenerative disorders.^{11,37}
26 MAO, which constitutes the major pathway for inactivation of the catecholamine
27 neurotransmitters, produces hydrogen peroxide and triggers the formation of other
28 forms of ROS as well, which can induce neuronal damage. MAO can therefore be
29 regarded as a key marker of the cellular antioxidant and pro-oxidant status.^{38,39} Our
30 results revealed a significant increase in MAO activity in brain tissue along CCl₄

1 induction, suggesting that CCl₄ induced neurotransmitter dysfunction and oxidative
2 stress. However, quercitrin treatment markedly decreased the activities of AChE and
3 MAO in mouse brain, indicating its potent neuroprotective capacity (Figure 6).

4 Various inflammatory cytokines play a significant role in the development of an
5 acute or chronic inflammatory response. TNF- α and IL-6 have been widely
6 considered to be the most important inflammatory cytokines in CCl₄ induced brain
7 injury.¹¹ It was well known that oxidative stress also stimulates the release of these
8 cytokines and amplify the inflammation response to cause further damage.^{13,17,39}
9 Moreover, the increased CYP2E1 and produced ROS accompanied with oxidative
10 stress can activate the inflammation process by producing TNF- α , IL-6 and other
11 pro-inflammatory cytokines.^{11,40} Our study showed increased levels of CYP2E1 and
12 proinflammatory cytokines in CCl₄-exposed mouse brain hippocampus and
13 quercitrin treatment could effectively suppress them (Figure 3 and 7). These results
14 indicated that quercitrin application markedly inhibited CCl₄-induced oxidative
15 stress and inflammation in mouse brains.

16 In conclusion, this is the first report that quercitrin has protective effects on brain
17 injury exposed to CCl₄. The primary mechanisms of this effect could be due to
18 attenuating brain oxidative stress, suppressing inflammation, and ameliorating
19 neurotransmitter dysfunction (Figure 8). Quercitrin decreased activities of ROS,
20 CYP2E1, MDA, t-PA, NR2B, AChE and MAO, and increased the activities of
21 antioxidant enzymes in mouse brains exposed to CCl₄. Quercitrin also suppressed
22 levels of key pro-inflammatory cytokines triggered by an inflammatory stimulus.
23 Overall, despite the positive effects of quercitrin on CCl₄-induced brain injury, more
24 indepth mechanistic studies are needed to support these beneficial effects.

25 **Conflict of interest statement**

26 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

27 **Acknowledgments**

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29 Science and Engineering.

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1 **Figure captions:**

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3 **Figure.1.** Chemical structure of quercitrin (QE)

4

5 **Figure.2.** Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the oxidative stress markers in CCl₄-treated
6 mouse brains. (A) Level of ROS; (B) Level of MDA. Each value is expressed as
7 mean±S.E.M. (n=7). ## P<0.01, compared with the control group; ** P < 0.01, vs.
8 CCl₄-treated group.

9

10 **Figure.3.** Quercitrin (QE) reduced the CAP2E1 level in the brains of mice exposed
11 to CCl₄. β-Actin was probed as an internal control in relative density analysis. The
12 vehicle control is set as 1.0. Each value is expressed as mean±S.E.M. ** P < 0.01,
13 compared with the control group; ## P < 0.01, vs. the CCl₄-treated group.

14

15 **Figure.4.** Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the antioxidant enzyme activities in the brains
16 of mice exposed to CCl₄. (A) CAT activity; (B) SOD activity; (C) GPx activity. All
17 values are expressed as mean ± S.E.M. (n=7). ## P < 0.01, compared with the
18 control group; **P < 0.01, vs. CCl₄-treated group.

19

20

21 **Figure.5.** Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the activities of t-PA and NR2B in the brains
22 of mice exposed to CCl₄. (A) t-PA activity; (B) The level of NR2B. β-Actin was
23 probed as an internal control in relative density analysis. The vehicle control is set as
24 1.0. Each value is expressed as mean±S.E.M. ** P < 0.01, compared with the control
25 group; ## P < 0.01, vs. the CCl₄-treated group.

26

27 **Figure.6.** Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the activities of AChE and MAO in the brains
28 of mice exposed to CCl₄. (A) AChE activity; (B) MAO activity. All values are
29 expressed as mean ± S.E.M. (n=7). ## P < 0.01, compared with the control group;
30 *P < 0.05,**P < 0.01, vs. CCl₄-treated group.

1

2 **Figure.7.** Western blot analysis of the protein immunocontent in association with
3 inflammation in the mouse brains. (A) The level of TNF- α ; (B) The level of IL-6.
4 β -Actin was probed as an internal control in relative density analysis. The vehicle
5 control is set as 1.0. Each value is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. ** $P < 0.01$, compared
6 with the control group; ## $P < 0.01$, vs. the CCl₄-treated group.

7

8 **Figure.8.** Schematic diagram showing the protective effects of quercitrin in
9 CCl₄-induced brain injury. The \rightarrow indicates activation or induction, and \dashv indicates
10 inhibition or blockade.

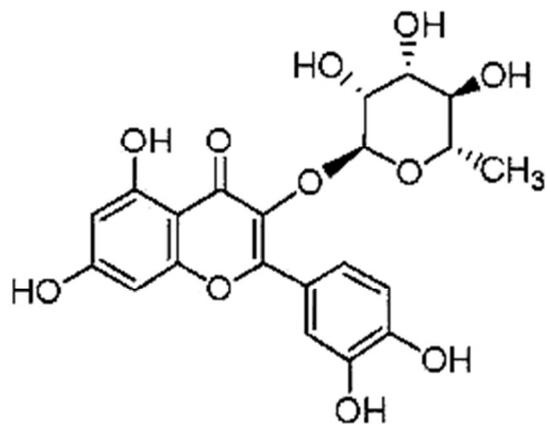


Figure.1. Chemical structure of quercitrin (QE)
73x56mm (96 x 96 DPI)

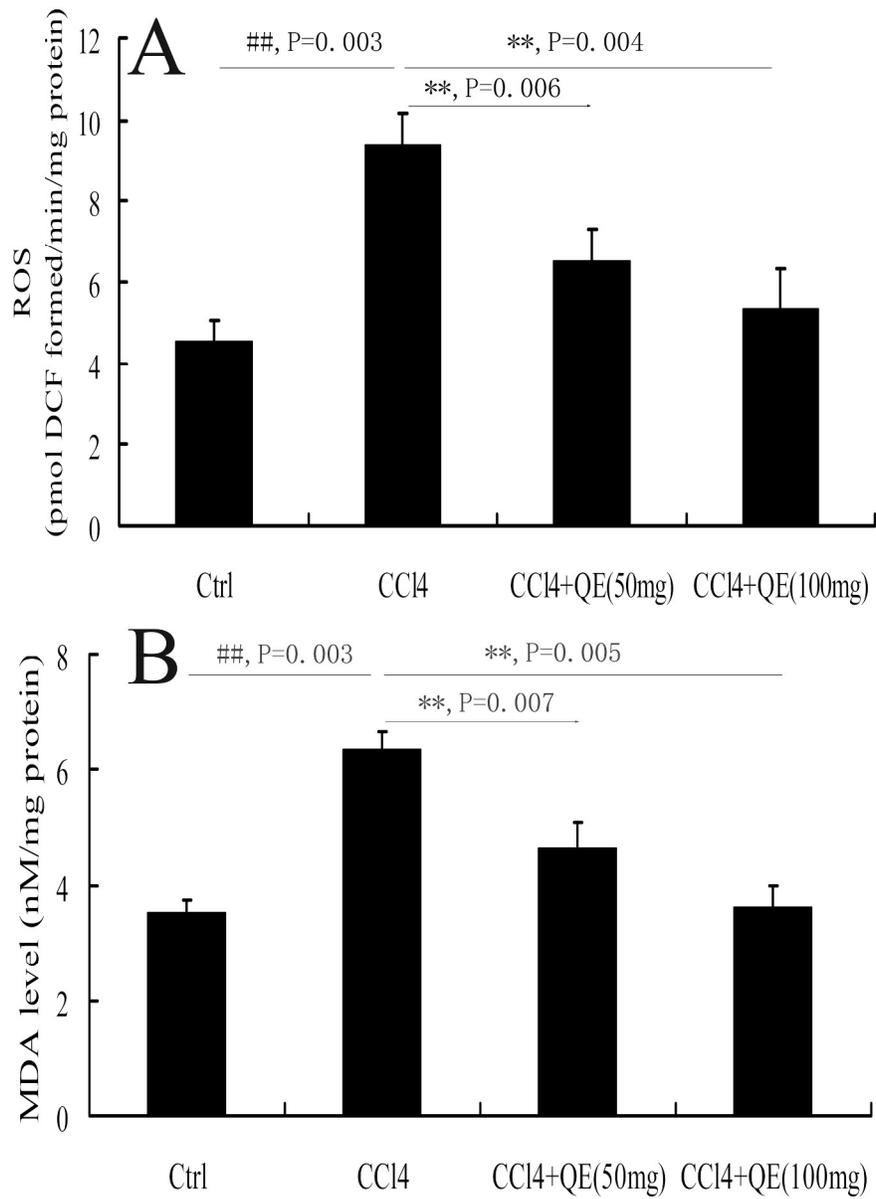


Figure.2. Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the oxidative stress markers in CCl4-treated mouse brains. (A) Level of ROS; (B) Level of MDA. Each value is expressed as mean±S.E.M. (n=7). ## P<0.01, compared with the control group; ** P < 0.01, vs. CCl4-treated group.
122x167mm (600 x 600 DPI)

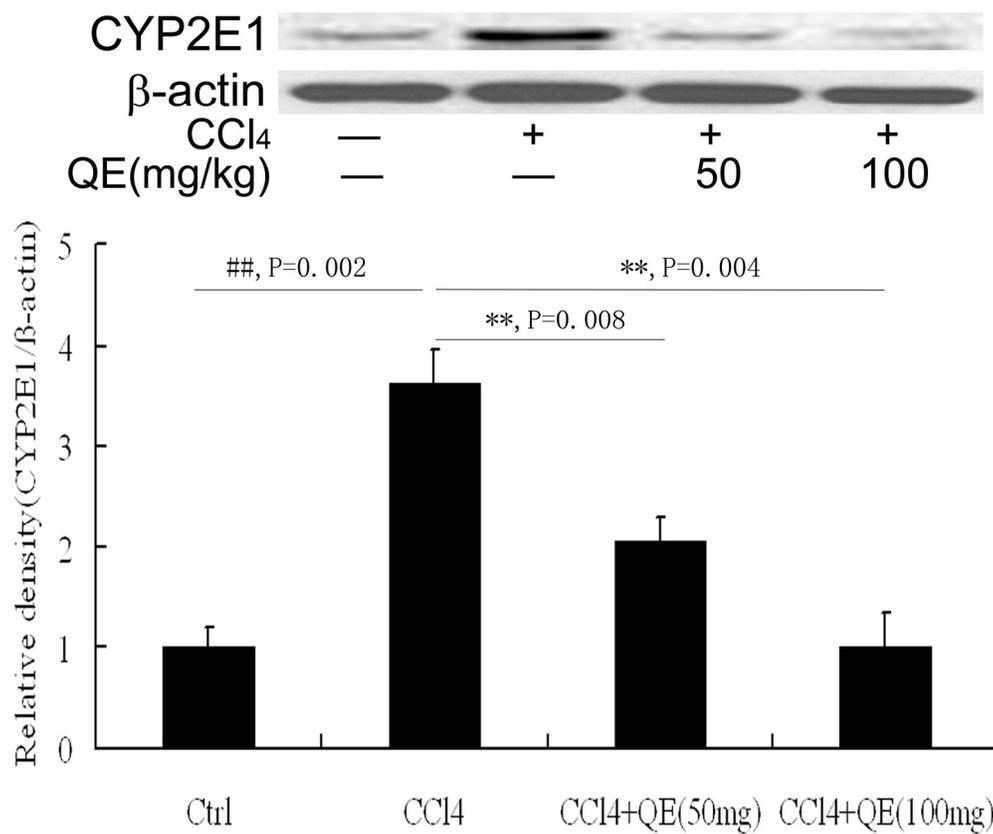


Figure.3. Quercitrin (QE) reduced the CAP2E1 level in the brains of mice exposed to CCl₄. β-Actin was probed as an internal control in relative density analysis. The vehicle control is set as 1.0. Each value is expressed as mean±S.E.M. ** P < 0.01, compared with the control group; ## P < 0.01, vs. the CCl₄-treated group.

84x70mm (600 × 600 DPI)

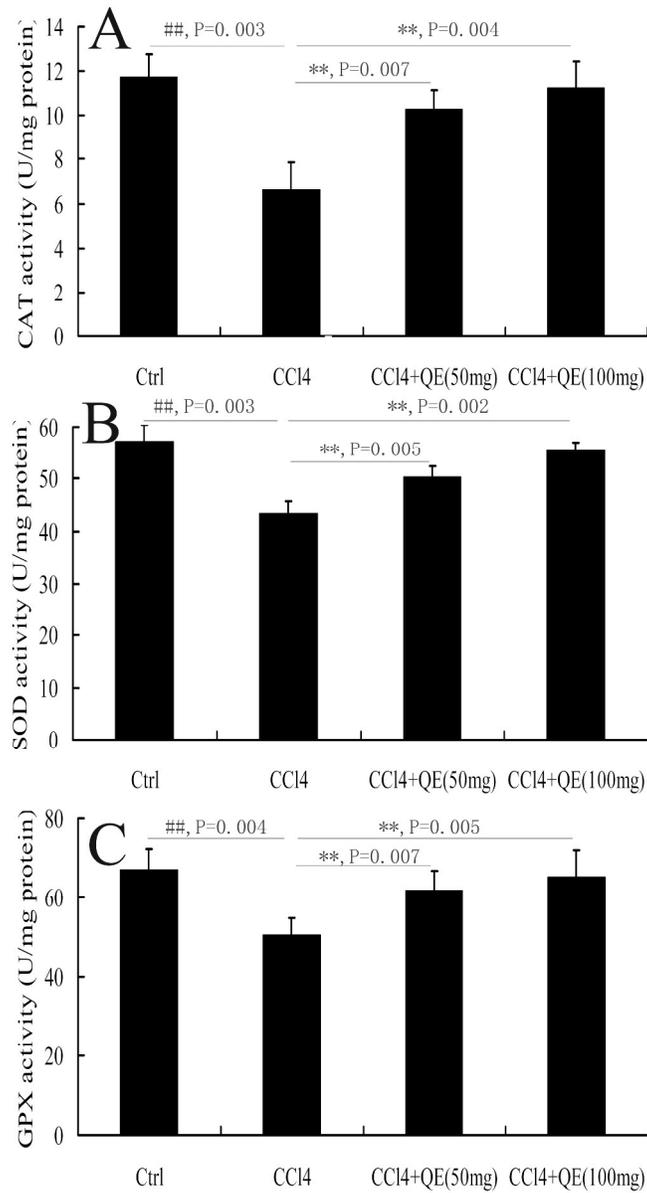


Figure.4. Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the antioxidant enzyme activities in the brains of mice exposed to CCl₄. (A) CAT activity; (B) SOD activity; (C) GPx activity. All values are expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. (n=7). ## P < 0.01, compared with the control group; **P < 0.01, vs. CCl₄-treated group.
165x305mm (600 x 600 DPI)

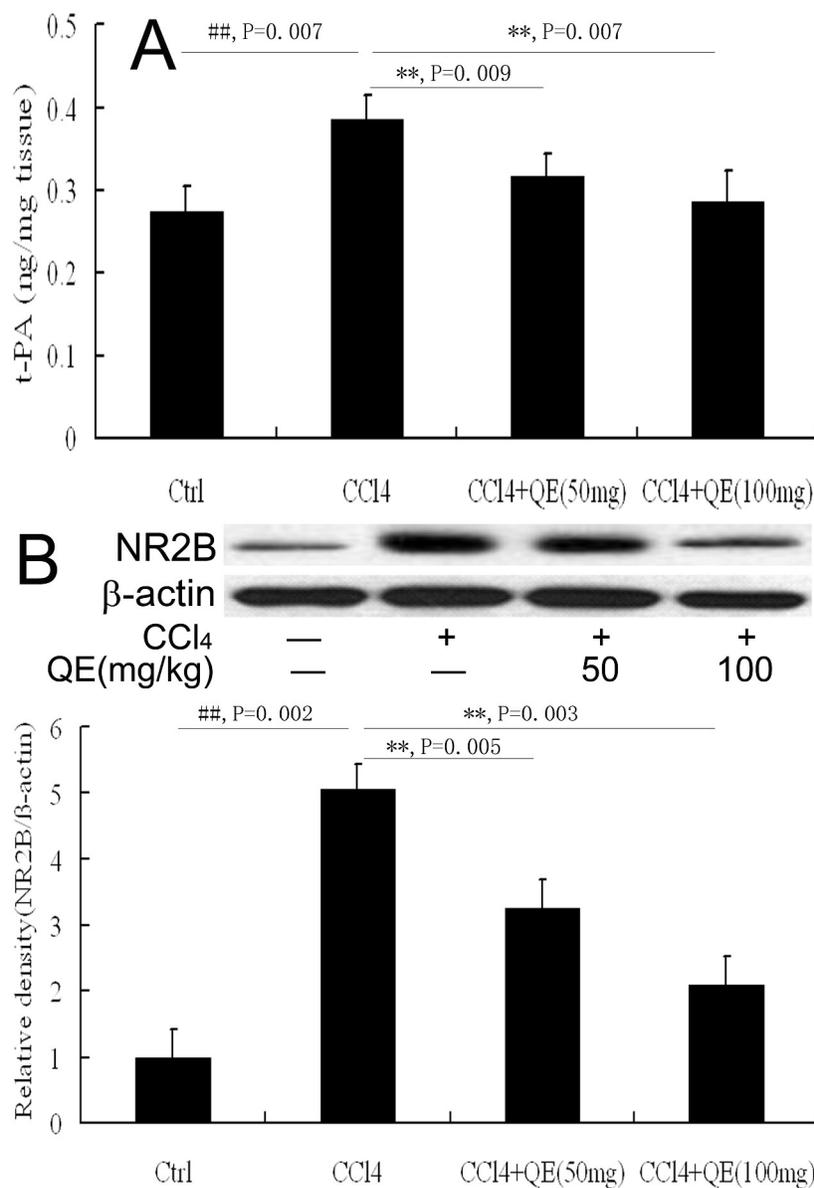


Figure.5. Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the activities of t-PA and NR2B in the brains of mice exposed to CCl₄.

(A) t-PA activity; (B) The level of NR2B. β-Actin was probed as an internal control in relative density analysis. The vehicle control is set as 1.0. Each value is expressed as mean±S.E.M. ** P < 0.01, compared with the control group; ## P < 0.01, vs. the CCl₄-treated group.

146x213mm (600 x 600 DPI)

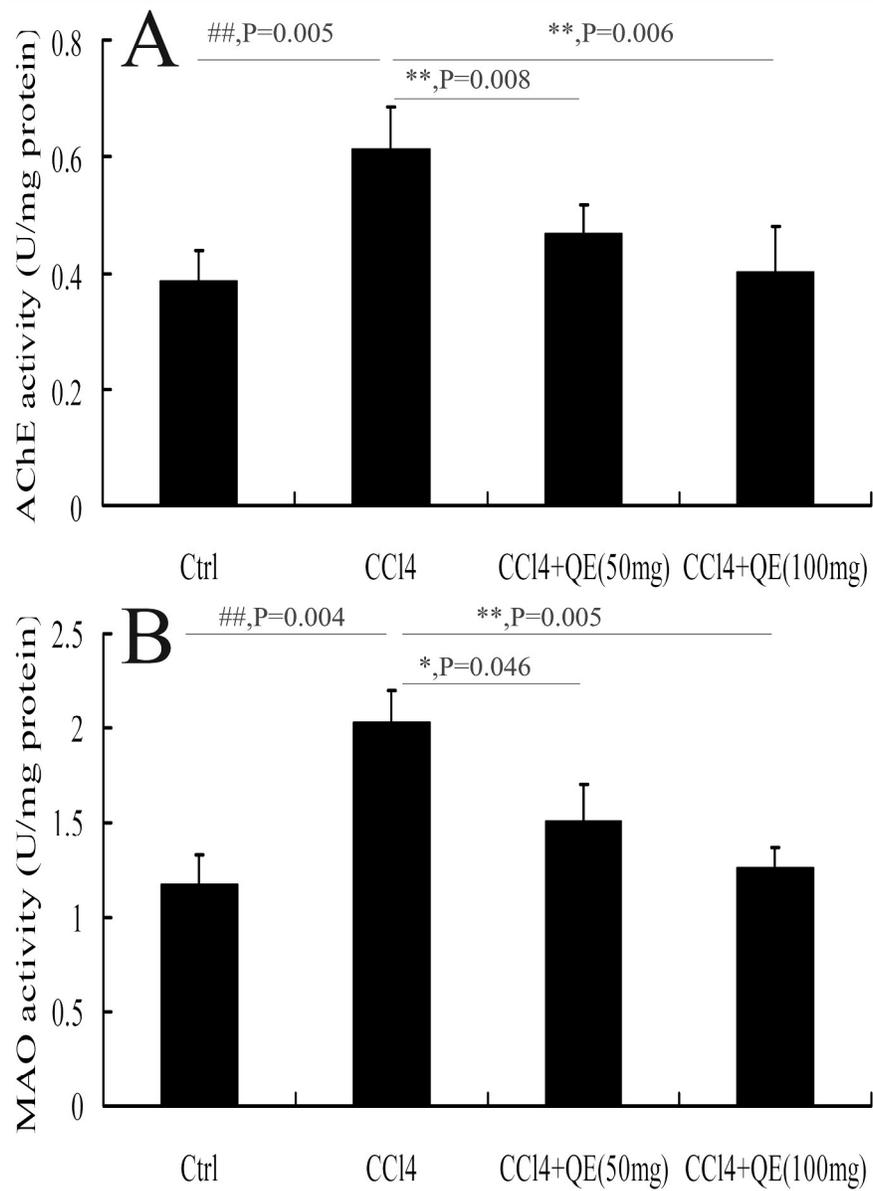


Figure.6. Effect of quercitrin (QE) on the activities of AChE and MAO in the brains of mice exposed to CCl₄. (A) AChE activity; (B) MAO activity. All values are expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. (n=7). ## P < 0.01, compared with the control group; *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, vs. CCl₄-treated group. 122x167mm (600 x 600 DPI)

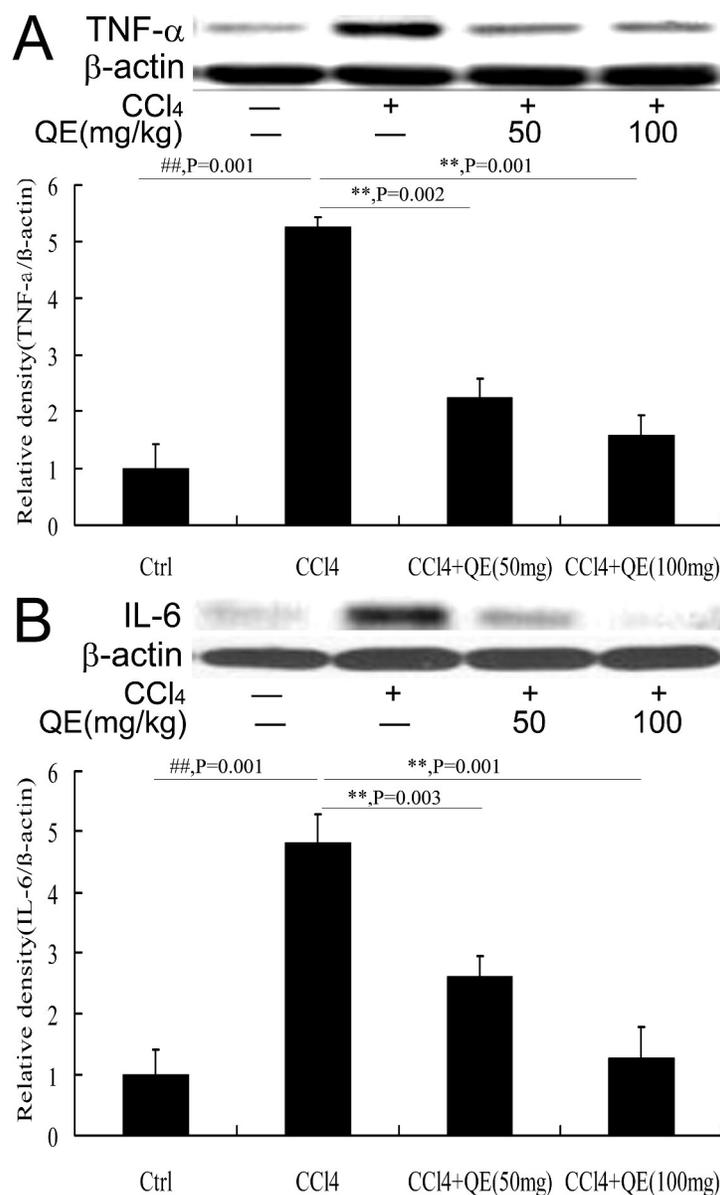


Figure.7. Western blot analysis of the protein immunocontent in association with inflammation in the mouse brains. (A) The level of TNF- α ; (B) The level of IL-6. β -Actin was probed as an internal control in relative density analysis. The vehicle control is set as 1.0. Each value is expressed as mean \pm S.E.M. ** $P < 0.01$, compared with the control group; ## $P < 0.01$, vs. the CCl₄-treated group.
164x272mm (600 x 600 DPI)

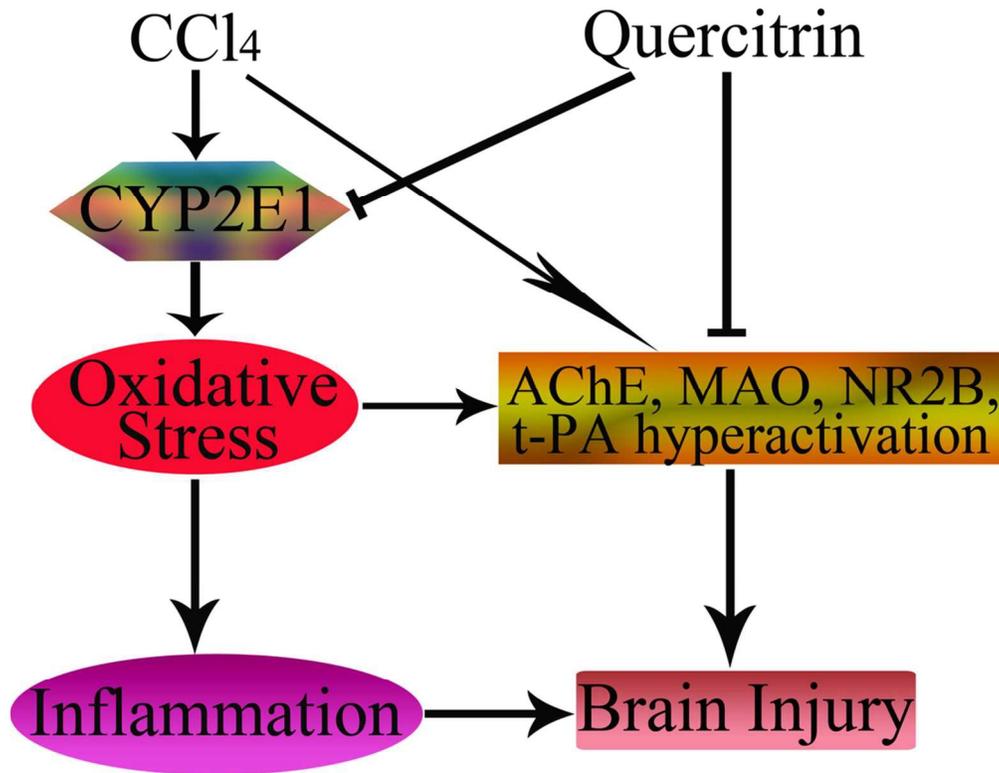


Figure.8. Schematic diagram showing the protective effects of quercitrin in CCl₄-induced brain injury. The → indicates activation or induction, and ⊥ indicates inhibition or blockade.
47x37mm (600 x 600 DPI)