Review of: "Toxicological evaluation of aqueous extracts of Clematis hirsuta and Rhamnus prinoides"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

How was the extract administered? The freeze-dried sample dissolved in water or the powdered extract fed to the rats?

Extracts were offered daily? At what time of day? Once or instalmentally?

The actual p-values in Tables 1 and 2 should have been be included.

There is no documentation of the protocol for animal weighing, feed and water intake measurements, blood sampling etc. This makes it difficult to replicate the study as the authors executed theirs.

The result of the study leaves so many questions than answers. For example, how did animals receiving leaf extract gain weight significantly compared to the control group, despite reduced feed intake and reduced water intake? This puts a question mark on the accuracy of data collection in this study. The discussion also provided evidence of potential toxicity associated with some of the suspected biochemical compounds.

The conclusion is too vague and misleading. What the authors may have established is that the LD50 value of these extracts was above 225mg/kg. However, because the discussions could not validate the key observations while important methodological details were missing, the credibility of the claims is suspect.