

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.

QEIOS

ID: 3GABRB

Title: Toxicological evaluation of aqueous extracts of *Clematis hirsuta* and *Rhamnus prinoides*

Authors: Caroline Wanjiku Kinuthia, James Mucunu Mbaria, Peter Mbaabu Mathiu, Loice Njeri Kamau, Mitchel Otieno Okumu

Reviewer Comments:

The research is well done, and the report well organized and comprehensive. However, authors should kindly consider the following for minor revisions:

1. Overall, the manuscript will benefit from additional editing to improve English, and correct typographical errors.
2. Line numbers are missing from submission, making some observations difficult to reference in this report. Authors should find some of those areas for further attention highlighted in the pdf copy reviewed.
3. Title: Should specify the study was carried out in rat model.
4. Methods:
 - i. Acute toxicity: "Over a two-week period, the control and treatment rats' feed and water consumption, as well as their mean body weight gain, were measured."
 - Mean weight is calculated not measured, details of how this was done should be included.
 - At the methodology stage, you could not have known if the results will show gain or loss in weight as specified. Kindly correct this.
5. Discussion:

Authors:

"A 34-year-old man who used *Clematis chinensis* for wrist pain developed hypo- and hyperpigmentation, as well as pruritic erythema [41] . According to another report, *Clematis chinensis* can cause bullae, abdominal cramping, palpitations, inflammation, hypersalivation, bloody diarrhoea, blistering, inflamed eyes, vomiting, and weakness [42]"

“In human oral epidermoid cancer cell lines, Koch and colleagues found an IC50 of more than 20 µg/mL for *R. prinoides* root bark chloroform extract [48].”

Reviewer: Comparing results in animal models against those of humans is not objective.

Authors: “Convulsions, confusion, and dizziness have been reported following the use of *Clematis virginiana* [46]. Beggars in ancient Rome applied *Clematis* spp. juice on their hands to cause blisters in order to gain more sympathy from people [46].”

Reviewer: This information do not actually discuss specific findings from this study. I suggest they are better moved to introduction as part of justification for toxicological studies proposed.

Reviewer recommendation:

The problems being addressed in this study are within the scope of this journal I recommend that the authors provide the necessary revisions for this work to be published.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.