

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.

In my opinion, three additions are imperious necessary for the publication of this study

- The minimum characterization of the plant extracts used in the study. Medicinal plants have a variable content of the secondary metabolites (known as the main pharmacological active compounds from plant derived products); eg., throughout the vegetation period, depending on the geographical place of collecting, the annual conditions of precipitation and sunshine, etc. Therefore, it is absolutely mandatory to determine at least 2 quantitative parameters (e.g., total dry substance and total phenol in the extracts) for the characterization and labeling of a vegetable extract, in order to ensure the reproducibility of the extraction and also for a realistic comparison with other results.

- The explicit description of the in vivo experiment mentioning daily routine: eg., the way in which the two test extracts were administered, if it was a single dose or a repeated dose, the time/way of sample collection, etc.

- A logical or potential explanation of the fact that the animals ate and drank less, but they gained much more weight compared to the control group. In this sense, it must be specified whether the animals suffered a slowdown in movement or, on the contrary, were more active/aggressive.

Apart from these, I consider that any in vivo toxicity study on the medicinal extracts in the form in which they are usually consumed in the respective region is of great benefit to the population and worldwide science and pharmaceutical chemistry too.