

# 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.

## REVIEW REPORT

**Authors did well in presenting their research findings, however the following few corrections, if effected will help to improve the quality of their manuscript.**

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

- Authors did not indicate the parts of plants that were used in their evaluation (roots, leaves, stem, fruits or entire plant). This should be indicated in their topic.
- How long did the pulverized plant material stay in the distilled water, 1 hr, 2hrs, 24hrs?
- I normally suggest male Wistar rats because other physiological processes may interfere with the females.
- What was the weight of the rats used in the experiments?
- Into how many groups were the experimental animals divided and how many animals were assigned to a particular group? Each group should be labeled appropriately. The experimental design should be properly presented.
- Extracts are administered in mg/kg body weight.
- Why only one dosage for the acute toxicity? If 2000mg/kg body weight was the upper limit, what was the lower dose used in the study?

## Presentation of figures

A. Feed consumption in Wistar rats fed with 2000mg/kg b.wt of *C.hirsuta* ( $p \leq 0.05$ )

B. Feed consumption in Wistar fed with 2000mg/kg b.wt of *R. prinoides* ( $p \leq 0.05$ )

State accordingly for mean water consumption and mean body weight. Legends explaining the figures do not seem to explicitly describe the results e.g in 3.1.3 (mean body weight result).

The authors explained figure B as treated rats relative to the mean body weight in control group rats after 14 days. The need to state their result clearly to include the dosage they used in their evaluation e.g 'Relative body weight of rats treated with 2000mg/kg b. wt of *R. prinoides* aqueous extract.

- How were the extracts administered, oral gavage, injection or what?

3.2 Subacute toxicity (authors need to explain how they obtained the doses used in the study.

Figure 4A is hanging. It should be left in a bracket near the sentence it is following.

-Check your statistics result for lymphocytes (25mg/kg b.wt of C. h), why is it bearing a different superscript from that of 25mg/kg Rp, and 75mg/kg RP since they are within the same range. Again, for 225mg/kg b.wt, is that superscript correct considering the gap?

Subacute toxicity should include the histopathology to monitor the effects of the extracts on the vital organs. However, the author has done a good work in biochemical and hematological parameters.

**References:** References are fairly old and should be replaced with recent ones.