

# 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.

I have now read and reviewed the above article.

I have found that the authors have made good efforts to accurately study the toxicity of the 2 plant extract.

The methods are well designed and conducted. I have the following points to consider by the authors:

1. in both the acute and subacute experiments, there was no indication of how the authors checked the consumption of the extracts by the rats.
2. What are the active constituents in *Clematis hirsuta* and *Rhamnus prinoides* responsible for their toxicity?
3. How much of the active constituents there was in each extract. Have the authors measured these in their preparations.
4. There was a reduction in food and water consumption, yet there was an increase in the weight of animals! This is very important to ignore. The authors have to investigate what happens? Have they discovered anything when they dissected the animals and looked at the various organs?
5. I think the increase in weight has to be investigated before the acceptance of this work for publication because the whole findings could be misleading.
6. Therefore, I do not agree with their conclusion "These findings indicate that oral administration of *Clematis hirsuta* aqueous leaf and *Rhamnus prinoides* aqueous root extracts to wistar rats is generally nontoxic".
7. Table 1 showed huge effects on blood platelets and white blood cells especially at the dose of 225mg/Kg. Due to these effects, I find it very strange that the authors reported no significant effects on weight, biochemical, or hematological parameters when compared to controls!
8. My decision is that the work needs major revision.