Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of Carissa opaca fruits extracts on oxidative pulmonary damages and fibrosis in rats

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Author's response to reviews:

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Dear Editor
BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Sir,

Subject: - Refer to Effects of Carissa opaca fruit extracts on oxidative pulmonary damages and fibrosis in rats

Dear Sir,

Reference to above manuscript; enclosed please find a revised version for resubmission. All points were considered in detail. We would like to thank the reviewer team for their careful reading of the manuscript. Their comments improved the quality of the manuscript and we hope that it will now be considered suitable for publication in your esteemed Journal.

Thank you for your attention.

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Reviewer's report
Title: Effects of Carissa opaca fruits extracts on oxidative pulmonary damages and fibrosis in rats
Version: 2 Date: 25 June 2013
Reviewer: ARANGANATHAN SHANMUGANATHAN
Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions:
There is no Major revision for this manuscript
Minor Essential Revisions
1. Number the pages
Ans: Added
2. In the title change "fruits" -> "fruit"
Ans: Revised
3. In the author list no information for 3 (Rahmat Ali Khan*2,3 )
Ans: Added
4. Revise the sentence "The present project was arranged to evaluate...." in the abstract.
Ans: Revised
5. In page 2 Change the sentence "42 Sprague–Dawley male rats" -> "In this study 42 sprague"
Ans: Revised
6. In page 4 line 3 change causes' -> causes
Ans: Changed
7. In page 4 revise the sentence "Lung is the main organ of respiration is obviously exposed to...."
Ans: Revised
8. batteries? Page 8
Ans: Removed
9. In page 8 change “weighting” -> “weighing”
Ans: Changed
Discretionary Revisions:
No such revision for this manuscript
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Reviewer's report
Title: Effects of Carissa opaca fruits extracts on oxidative pulmonary damages
and fibrosis in rats

Version: 2 Date: 5 June 2013
Reviewer: Ganapasam Sudhandiran
Reviewer's report:

In this manuscript Sahreen et al have analysed the effect of Carissa opaca fruit extract on pulmonary damage. They have supported their findings with biochemical parameters and histology. The data presented are preliminary, however the role of this fruit extract against pulmonary damage has not been addressed. While this this is an interesting work, there are several major concerns that need to be justified. The following are my major concern.

Title : Effects of Carissa opaca fruits extracts on oxidative pulmonary damages and fibrosis in rats

Did the authors evaluate fibrosis. There are standard models of induce pulmonary fibrosis such as instillation of bleomycin, silica, amiodarone etc. The authors should tone down their statement.
Ans: Added

Background: The authors have not given much more description about Carissa opaca.
Ans: Added

Methodology: Why do the authors selectively collect the plant during March-April season. What would be the effect of the plant during winter.
Ans: We collect the fruits during the mentioned season because during this season their fruits are at mature stage. According to my point of view the effects of the winter fruits will be the same if we find it during winter.

Plant extract may contain both hydrophobic and hydrophilic compounds..By doing liquid liquid partition only, how the authors could tell about the purity of the extract? HPLC is preferable.
Ans: Yes, off course your comments are excellent but due lack of facilities we use the mentioned procedure, kindly accept it.

The authors did not mention about dosage fixation study. ow did the authors fix the dosage of extract as 200 mg/kg BW? What parameters were chosen?
Ans: We use various doses including 100, 150 mg/kg b.w., to fix this dose 200 mg/kg b.w., but we do not mention here because their result were non significant.

Results:
In experimental protocol the authors have given as 7 groups. But in result tables they have given the results of 10 groups.
Ans: Checked and corrected
In microphotographs of rat lungs the background is not same. For the panel E, it is clear that the histology were not processed in a similar manner at a time. Only six groups were mentioned in the same. Ans: microphotograph of 7 group is added and revised

Based upon the level of lipid peroxidation and histopathological analysis how it is possible to say that Carissa opaca has protective activity against pulmonary fibrosis? The authors could have check the level of inflammatory markers and pulmonary fibrosis marker like hydroxyproline or could have used some collagen specific assays. In brief, it is a good work.

Ans: We want to investigate the protective effects of extract against CCl4 induced oxidative damages in rats due to non availability of specific markers for pulmonary fibrosis.