Author's response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of toxicity after one-months treatment with Bauhinia forficata decoction in streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats

Authors:

Prof Maria T. Pepato (pepatomt@fcfar.unesp.br)
Amanda M. Baviera (amanda@rbi.fmrp.usp.br)
Regina C. Vendramini (vendrast@fcfar.unesp.br)
Iguatemy L. Brunetti (brunetti@fcfar.unesp.br)

Version: 3 Date: 29 Apr 2004

REVIEWER: GLAUC SOCORRO DE BARROS VIANA

We again are grateful for the care taken in reviewing our manuscript.

1- All the text still needs to be revised as far as the English language is concerned. For instance, the expression serum levels, at pages 9 and 10 should be replaced by serum levels. At page 11, the Latin name of tender oak, Quercus incana, should be in italic. It would be good to have a native English speaker to read the manuscript.

Answer: The corrections were made and the text revised by a native English speaker (see attached letter).

2- Methods: page 4 (end of the 1st paragraph)- I feel that it would be better to express the final decoction concentration in terms of solid residues/ml. This could be done by simply taking a 1 ml decoction sample in a weighted beaker and submitting it to evaporation in the oven at 60 oC. After the complete evaporation, the beaker is weighted again, and this gives the concentration of the decoction in solid residues/ml. The way the authors used does not give any idea about the amount of material extracted during the 5 min boiling process, what could vary from time to time.

Answer: This would be difficult to accomplish now but we shall do this in our further studies.

3. Page 7, Statistical analysis: It is not clear why only the bilirubin data was analysed by unpaired Student's t test.

Answer: We used this test for the following reasons:

a) The determination of bilirubin was carried out only when the rats were sacrificed and not during the course of the experiment as was the case with the other parameters measured, because of which we had only one set of values for each group and therefore compared groups DT with DC and NT with NC.

b) The reason we used a non-paired test was because we were comparing different animals.

c) This test was also chosen because it is one of the ones used in the literature for this type of comparison.

4. Page 8, last paragraph of Results section: I think that the authors want to say that "treated and untreated rats grew at similar rates" (and not at similar rats).

Answer: We have corrected this as suggested.

5. Page 5, Decoction administration: It would be worthwhile to determine the amount of the decoction DT and NT groups drunk during the experimental procedure. It should be taken into account that tannins, compounds also present in Bauhinia forficata leaves, can be toxic compounds
and, depending upon the amount taken, they can lead to death.

Answer: We have corrected this as suggested.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Evaluation of the toxicity of Bauhinia forficata leaf decoction to streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats treated with the decoction for one-month.

By

Maria Teresa Pepato, Amanda Martins Baviera, Regina Celia Vendramini & Iguatemy Lourenço Brunetti

The above work has been read by Dr. Robert Thomas, a native speaker of English, who considers that the written English as presented to him is of an adequate standard for inclusion in a scientific journal.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Robert W.S.P. Thomas 27 April 2004
B.Sc. microbiology/zoology joint honors (Swansea, Wales, UK. 1979)
Ph.D. Microbiology (Aston, Birmingham. UK. 1985)

Phone: Porto Alegre (051) 4858892/91249269,
E-mail: nwpstom@Aol.com