Reviewer's report

Title: Bauhinia forficata: absence of toxicity during long-term treatment of experimental diabetes

Version: 1 Date: 3 March 2004

Reviewer: chippada apparaao

Reviewer's report:

The paper deals with the toxicity of Bauhinia forficata on long term treatment of diabetes. The study is well planned and carried out but the following have to be clarified before consideration for publication.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. What is the status (higher or lower) of the activities of serum LD, CK, AMS and ACE in the untreated diabetics before the start of the treatment, when compared with those of normal healthy controls?
2. Whether the leaf decoction of Bauhinia forficata is hypoglycemic in normal healthy controls? If it is not so, is the toxicity of B. forficata studied in normal healthy animals?
3. The changes in the body weights of both groups of rats during and at the end of the treatment are not given. The body weight changes may correlate with the control of diabetes and other effects of the plant product.
4. The discussion part of the paper does not contain any references on the toxic effects of the phytochemical constituents of the plants. e.g. Garg et al. (Vet Hum Toxicol. 1992) reported nephro and hepato toxicity with tannins in cattle.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

none

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

none

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: