Author’s response to reviews

Title: Water extract of Semecarpus parvifolia Thw. leaves inhibits cell proliferation and induces apoptosis on HEp-2 cells

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The Editor

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to submit the revised manuscript (BCAM-D-17-00480R5) titled “Water extract of Semecarpus parvifolia Thw. leaves inhibits cell proliferation and induces apoptosis in HEp-2 cells”.

All the suggestions are addressed and given below.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Preethi Soysa

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,

Faculty of Medicine,
1. Please specify who the principal scientist was who identified the plant materials. Please include this information in the Methods section.

Page 4 line 8

Included under Plant Materials in Methods section as ‘The plant was authenticated by the principal scientist Dr. Sudeepa Sugathadasa, at the Department of Botany, Bandaranayake Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute, Navinna, Colombo, Sri Lanka.’

2. Please clarify where the nauplii used in this study were acquired from. Please include this information in the Methods section.

Page 3 line 12

Included under Materials and equipment in the Method section

3. Please amend the headings in the main text to: Background, Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusions.

Amended as suggested (Page 2 line 5, Page 3 line 5, Page 11 line 2, Page 14 line 19 and Page 16 line 22 for Background, Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusions respectively)

4. The Availability of data and materials section refers to the raw data used in your study and presenting tables and figures is not sufficient to state that all data is contained within the manuscript and additional files. Please only use this statement if you have indeed provided all raw data on which your study is based. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data,
either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. Data availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

Page 17 line 19.

The raw datasets used and analysed during the current study will be available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

5. Please clarify the role that the funding body had in this study and include this information in the Funding section.

Page 18 lines 8-9

Included the role in Funding section

6. Please include a statement in the Authors' contributions section to the effect that all authors have read and approved the manuscript, and ensure that this is the case.

Page 18 line 14

Included the statement that, ‘The all authors have read and approved the manuscript’ as suggested.

7. Please remove the funding information from the Acknowledgements and include it in the Funding section instead.

Page 18 line 6-9

Included the following statements in the funding section and removed from the acknowledgement section.
This study was carried out under a grant from National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka (Grant No. RG/2005/HS 17) awarded to Professor Preethi Soysa and Postgraduate Funds available, in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. The both funds were utilized to purchase chemicals and for the maintenance of instruments.

8. Please amend the Methodology heading in the Abstract to Methods.

Page 1 line 9

Amended as suggested.

9. Please ensure that all of the plant/animal species names which should be in italics are italicised, there is currently a mixture of italicised and non-italicised words throughout the manuscript.

   Corrections were made through the whole document. Semecarpus Lehyam mentioned in the manuscript is a paste.