**Author’s response to reviews**

**Title:** Effect of long-term feeding of the Obudu natural honey and table sugar-sweetened diets on obesity and pro-inflammatory biomarkers in rats.

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The rats were anaesthetized with chloroform vapour inhalation in a closed chamber (i.e. exposed to 1 ml-soaked cotton wool for 5 minutes in a closed chamber); this enabled the rats to lost sensation allowing for the blood collection procedure. These anaesthetized rats were dissected using a pair of dissecting scissors and forceps (laparatomy). Sterilize syringes and needles were then used to collect whole blood via cardiac puncture into non-heparinized sample tubes. The method has the advantage of rapid induction and also serves for euthanisation.