

Editor's comments:

Some aspects of the manuscript is interesting, however, the manuscript requires major revision as generally discussed in the following comments:

1. The hypolipidemic effects of Hibiscus Subdariffa appeared to be previously described in the literature, however, the effects on hibiscus on cholesterol transport (LDL and HDL) may be novel and it needs to be clarified in the revision. The authors needs to provide a review of the literature on the action of hibiscus on lipoprotein cholesterol transport.
2. Given the very small number of animals used in this investigation, a total of 4 animal/test group animals, I consider the work presented in this manuscript is at best preliminary and not definitive investigation. The title of the manuscript must be revised to denote that it is preliminary investigation.
3. I fully agree with all four reviewers comments and the authors are encouraged to address all these comments in a revised copy of their manuscript.
4. The authors need to clarify whether they investigated the calyx (sepal) of hibiscus in the study and not the leaves. Also, what is the active pharmacological ingredients in this plant? Is the active ingredient evenly distributed in the plant (leaves, corolla, stem, etc.). Are there any clinical studies performed on hibiscus with respects to its known pharmacological actions. Please discuss the common hibiscus drink Carcade as to how it is made and consumed. Are the doses of hibiscus used in this study are relevant to doses consumed in Carcade drink?

Authors' feedback:

1. Information on the effect of Hibiscus sabdariffa on lipid profile of normal subjects is scanty. This study did not evaluate the lipid profile effect of H.sabdariffa on 'hyperglycemic candidates'. We undertook this study because here in Nigeria, normal individuals take this reepe (Zobo) which is prepared from the calyx of H.sabdariffa oblivious of the consequences healthwise.
2. I am surprised that you said 4 animals are scanty when animal right activists are frowning at use of large numbers of animals for experiment. Moreover, statistically speaking, 3 animals per group are enough to run analysis of variance. So why are you saying that 4 animals are scanty. A reviewer raised that query which I addressed then. However, if you want me to reflect the term "preliminary" in the title, I will do so.
3. These comments had already been addressed earlier.
4. The calyx was investigated because the calyx is used in making the zobo drink. I equally had addressed this query when it was raised by a reviewer. There are so many phytochemical contents in the calyx and our study did not evaluate the active pharmacological ingredient. Moreover, we did not evaluate it as a therapeutic agent instead we simply wanted to know if it has any effect (which could be toxicological, pharmacological etc) on the lipid profile. Brief preparation of the extract was given in the introduction. As per any clinical studies, people have worked on H.sabdariffa, however, work is in progress in our laboratory now on how we could separate the antidiabetic principle(s) of this plant and characterize it/them. The doses were arbitrary but we bore in mind not to exceed the safety value from the result of our previous studies.