

### **Editor's comments:**

The authors did not address my previous comments regarding the suggested changes of their manuscript. I edited the manuscript and specifically asked the authors to address all the questions being asked throughout the text. Also, I corrected style issues, grammatical and spelling errors as per enclosed revision. All of my corrections are in red color.

### **Authors' feedback:**

All your corrections have been effected accordingly and questions answered step wise below.  
Thank you

**Editor Query: Note to Authors: How is the Zobo drink being prepared? Is the method of preparation similar to the Carcadeh drink used in North Africa? What is the actual human dose (mg/kg) of this extract being used in folk medicine? Would those doses be equivalent to the range of doses tested in rats? Please briefly discuss here and in the Discussion section of manuscript).**

**Author Response:** the preparation was briefly discussed in the sentence preceeding the place you asked the question (i.e "It is usually consumed after a hot water extraction of the calyces and subsequent addition of other ingredients"). The preparation is as simple as that. Extract the calyx in hot water and drink or you may add sweetners.  
There is no human dose. People drink it at will, any time and any how and that is why we tested the effect on normal subjects using arbitrary dose.

**Editor Query:(Notes to authors: What was the frequency of the daily administration? Was the extract given by single daily gavages or was it given in the water supply? Please explain the details)**

**Author Response:** it was administered once daily using stomach tube (garvage). This information has been added in the manuscript

**Editor Query:( Note to Authors: Please provide a discussion of the safety issues following the three weeks of treatment? Did the body weight gains for all treatment groups are similar? If not, please provide explanations).**

**Author Response:** we did not evaluate the body weight indices and thus cannot synthesize data on it.

**Editor Query: (Note to Authors: The reduction of serum cholesterol noted in the cited studies was achieved in animals given atherogenic (high fat) diets. Your study was performed in healthy rats who are normocholesterolemic and thus it would be expected that *H.sabdariffa* would not work in this setting. You will need to discuss this issue in the revision).**

**Author Response:** well, you are correct. However, there is dearth of information on this area (that test of effect of *H.sabdariffa* on the lipid panel of normal subjects). This is why we discussed the closely related study here. Also, it may not be stated categorically that the two studies should not be compared just because we did not induce hyperlipidemia. This is research and so many things are possible.