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Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

January 4, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name 7534-review.doc).

Title: Phytotherapy in diabetes: Review on potential mechanistic perspectives

Author: Hanan Salah El-Abhar and Mona Farag Schaalan

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Diabetes*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 7534

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1. Format has been updated

2. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) It would be interesting for readers to learn a bit about the search strategy. Maybe the authors can add a few sentences on that.

Response: That has been clearly defined in the abstract and introduction by the following statement: Different search engines were explored including Pubmed, Google, Ascii database by using different keywords. Priority was given to research articles and information given by authentic organizations and federations. Plants cited in this review are those reputed traditionally for their antidiabetic effect and that were verified, either experimentally or clinically

(2) Some relevant publications seem not to be included (e.g. Crawford P. Effectiveness of cinnamon for lowering hemoglobin A1C in patients with type 2 diabetes: a randomized, controlled trial. *J Am Board Fam Med.* 2009 Sep-Oct;22(5):507-12.)

Response:

The recommended article has been added to the text and references and highlighted in yellow

(3) In some cases, a more cautious wording appears more appropriate, e.g. "was shown" rather than "proven".

Response: That has been considered and highlighted yellow

(4) - I feel that a somewhat more detailed description of studies would be helpful for judging the quality of data (e.g., studies in animals or humans, randomized or uncontrolled and so on).

Response: It has been made clear what type of research the herbal extract has been tested on. Either experimentally on STZ-induced diabetic rats or clinical trial on humans.



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(5) - I recommend adding a short paragraph at the end wrapping up the chances of phytotherapeutics as well as the deficits so far, e.g. the fact that there are only very few randomized studies.

Response: That has been added at the conclusion section

3. References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Diabetes*.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Mona Schaalán.

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