We claim

1. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes wherein the total stilbenes content of the composition is 5%, in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing obesity in humans, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day to achieve the effects of reduction in body weight, body mass index and waist circumference.

2. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes wherein the total stilbenes content of the composition is 5%, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia in humans, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day to achieve the effects of (a) reduction in the systemic levels of total cholesterol, Low Density Lipoproteins (LDL), Very Low Density Lipoproteins (VLDL) and serum triglycerides and (b) enhancement in the systemic levels of High Density Lipoproteins (HDL).

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition consists essentially of piceatannol and dimers thereof.

4. The use according to claim 3, wherein the composition consists essentially of a combination of piceatannol, scirpusin B and scirpusin A.

5. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes wherein the total stilbenes content of the composition is greater than 3%, in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing obesity in human, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day to achieve the effects of reduction in body weight, body mass index and waist circumference.

6. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes wherein the total stilbenes content of the composition is greater than 3%, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia in human, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day to achieve the effects of (a) reduction in the systemic levels of total cholesterol, Low Density Lipoproteins (LDL), Very

Low Density Lipoproteins (VLDL) and serum triglycerides and (b) enhancement in the systemic levels of High Density Lipoproteins (HDL).

7. The use according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the composition consists essentially of piceatannol and dimers thereof.

8. The use according to claim 7, wherein the composition consists essentially of a combination of piceatannol, scirpusin B and scirpusin A.