We claim

1. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain 5% of total stilbenes in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing obesity in humans, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day.

2. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain 5% of total stilbenes in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia in human, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of the extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain 5% of total stilbenes consists essentially of piceatannol and dimers thereof.

4. The use according to claim 3, wherein the composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of the extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain 5% of total stilbenes, 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 standardized to contain greater than 3% of total stilbenes in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing obesity in human, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day.

6. Use of a composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of an extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain greater than 3% of total stilbenes in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia in human, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally twice a day.

7. The use according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of the extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain greater than 3% of total stilbenes consists essentially of piceatannol and dimers thereof.

8. The use according to claim 7, wherein the composition comprising the ethyl acetate fraction of the extract of *Cyperus rotundus* rhizomes standardized to contain greater than 3% of total stilbenes, consists essentially of a combination of piceatannol, scirpusin B and scirpusin A.