EFFECT OF CASSIA AURICULATA EXTRACT ON NOCICEPTION, EXPERIMENTAL DIABETES AND HYPERLIPIDEMIA IN MICE AND RATS

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Objective: Find out the effect of *Cassia* auriculata extract on nociception, experimental diabetes, and hyperlipidemia in mice and rats.

Methods: Aqueous extract of *Cassia auriculata* (CAEt) were Administered orally and different doses of the extract on "nociception in mice, blood glucose, glucose-6-

phosphatase, serum and tissue lipids in rats with alloxan induced diabetes" were studied. Diclofenac and Chlopropamide were used as standard reference drugs respectively. Aqueous extract of *Cassia auriculata* (CAEt) at doses of 150,300,500, mg/kg body weight.

Results:

Anti-nociceptive:Results indicate (doses of 150, 300,500, mg/kg)that aqueous extract of *Cassia auriculata* possessed anti-nociceptive activity in mice.

Anti-diabetic Anti-hyperlipidemic: Results indicated (doses of 150, 300,500 mg/kg for 30 days) suppressed the elevated glucose and, lipid levels in diabetic rats. Cassiaauriculata. 500mg/kg was found comparable to standard reference drugs.

Conclusion: Our findings shows that extract possesed anti-nociceptive, anti-diabetic and anti-hyperlipidemic activities.

Key words: Anti-nociceptive, Anti-diabetic, Anti-hyperlipidemic Cassia auriculata extract, Alloxan.

INTRODUCTION:

Renewed intrest on biological activities of medicinal plants emerged in early 1980's as the Council of Scientific and Industrial research have published the information on the screening of biological activities of many medicinal plants using experimental models1. Recently the use of herbal preparations in remedies for various medical conditions have been rapidly increasing especially in India. It is believed that herbal preparations are safe although the ingredients have never been vigorously substantiated. Cassia auriculata (family-Caselpenaceae) used as anti-bacterial, anti-microbial, wound healing anti-oxidant and analgesic drug.

There is a growing intrest in co-relating phytochemical constituents of plants with its pharmacological activities. Scientists have started co-relating the botanical properties of plants with their pharmacological activities².

Diabetes mellitus is characterized by hyperglycemia together with biochemical alterations of glucose and lipid metabolism³. The liver is an insulin dependent tissue, which plays a pivotal role in glucose and lipid homeostasis and severely affected during diabetes⁴. Liver participates in the uptake, oxidation, and metabolic conversion of free fatty acids, synthesis of cholesterol, phospholipids and triglycerides. During diabetes a profound alteration in the concentration and composition of lipids occurs5. Many traditional plant treatments for diabetes mellitus are used through out the world. A few of traditional plants for treatment for nocicepton, and diabetes have received scientific scrutiny, and the World Health Organization has recommended that this area warrents attention⁶.

Acute pain is generally welll accounted of nociception for in terms excessive noxious stimulus giving rise to and unpleasant sensation. intense which are used against Drugs nociception are called anti-nociceptive drugs., like opioid analgesic⁷.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Animals(For anti-diabetic and anti-hyperlipidemic activites): All the experiments were carried out using male Wistar rats aged 8-9 weeks(180-200g body weight). The animals were housed in polypropylene cages and provided with water and standard pellets diet ad libitum. The animals used in the present study were approved by the Ethical Committee.

Animals (For antinociceptive activity):

Adult male ICR Balb/c mice (20-25 g) were used for the antinociceptive experiment. The animals were maintained under standard laboratory conditions (light period of 12h/day and temperature 27 °C±2°C), with access to food and water ad libitum. The experimental procedures were carried out in strict compliance with the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee regulations The experiment was performed in the morning according to the guidelines for the care of laboratory animals.

Chemicals: Alloxanmonohydrate, Chlorpropa mide, Diclofenacsodium Naloxone were obtained from Himedia Laboratories, S.G. Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Pfizer India Ltd. Mumbai, respectively. All other reagents used were analytical grade.

Plant material: Cassia auriclata plant was collected freshly from in and around Erode district of Tamilnadu, India.Leaves and flowers of plant

dried under shade, made into coarse powder by grinding.

Plant was identified and authenticated at the herbarium Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

Preparation of plant extract:

Aqueous Extract:

To 20 g of each dried plant powder form, 500 ml water were added and contents of mixed thoroughly by gentle flask were shaking . Flasks were kept for four days frequent shaking . After completion of maceration process the filtrates obtained were and water evaporated get the dried extract. to (evaporation by keeping flasks in electric mantle at 80 °C). The residual extract was dissolved in water and used in the studies8.

Induction of experimental diabetes:

diabetes in rats alloxan To induce monohydrate(150 mg/Kg)was administered intraperitoneally to a group of rats. The alloxan was freshly prepared as 5 % weight/ volume solution in distilled water. After two days , blood samples were taken from these animals after two hours of oral dosing o f CA extract ,chlorpropamide(400mg/kg) and equivalent amount of 2% weight/volume aqueous accacia solution as (control).Blood sugar levels of the animals are determined by the Otoluidine method of Fings et al (1970).

Rats with moderate diabetes having glycosuria and hyperglycemia(that is with a blood glucose of 200-300mg /dl) were used for the experiments.

Induction of experimental pain for antinociceptive study:

Hot plate Method: Hot plate (model 7280, Ugo Basile, Italy) was maintained at 55.0 °C ± 0.2 ° C and the animals were placed into the perspax cylinder on the heated surface and the time (sec) to discomfort reaction (licking paws or jumping) was recorded as response latency.

Prior to and after aministration of extract (aqueous) at doses of 150,300 and 500 mg/kg orally. A latency period of 20 seconds was defined as complete analgesia and the measurement was terminated if it exceeded the latency period in order to avoid injury.

GROUPS AND TREATMENT:

Hot plate Method: The number of animals(mice) six in each group(n=6 in each

group). Hot plate (model 7280, Ugo Basile, Italy) was maintained at 55.0±0.2° C and the animals were placed into the perspax cylinder on the heated surface and the time (sec) to discomfort reaction (licking paws or jumping) was recorded as response latency.

Prior to and after aministration of extract (aqueous) at doses of 150,300 and 500 mg/kg orally. A latency period of 20 seconds was defined as complete analgesia and the measurement was terminated if it exceeded the latency period in order to avoid injury. Diclofenac sodium was used as standard reference drug(dose 0.075 mg/kg body weight).

Experimental procedure for Anti-diabetic & Anti-hyperlipidemic activities:

In the experiment, a total of 36 rats (30 diabetic surviving rats and six normal rats) were used. The rats were divided into six groups of six animals in each group.

Group 1: Normal untreated rats

Group 2: Diabetic control rats given 1 ml of aqueous solution daily using an intra gastric tube for 30 days.

Group 3: Diabetic rats given CAEt(150 mg/ Kg body weight) in 1 ml of aqueous solution daily using an intra gastric tube for 30 days

Group 4: Diabetic rats given CAEt(300 mg/Kg body weight) in 1 ml of aqueous solution daily using an intra gastric tube for 30 days

Group 5: Diabetic rats given CAEt(500 mg/ Kg body weight) in 1 ml of aqueous solution daily using an intra gastric tube for 30 days.

Group 6: Diabetic rats given Chlorpropamide (400 mg/kg body weight) in 1 ml of aqueous solution daily using an intragastric tube for 30 days.

At the end of 30 days, the animals were deprived of food overnight and sacrificed by the decapitation. Blood samples were collected in two different tubes (ie.,) one with anti-coagulant - potassium oxalate and sodium fluoride for plasma and

another without anti-coagulant for serum preparation. Plasma and serum were separated by centrifugation. Liver was immediately dissected out, washed in ice cold saline and patted ,dry and weighed.

Analytical procedure:

Fasting blood glucose was estimated by Otoludine method.(Sasaki et al)10.Plasma insulin level was assayed by enzyme linked assay(ELISA) kit, using immunosorbent human insulin as standard. Haemoglobin was estimated by the method of Drabkin and Austin¹¹ and glycosylated haemoglobin by the method of Sudhakar Naik and Pattabiraman¹². Lipids were extracted from serum and tissue by the method of Folch et al¹³. Total cholesterol and triglycerides were estimated by the method of Zlatkis et al14 and Foster and Dunn¹⁵ respectively. Free fatty acids and phospholipids were analysed by the method of Falholt et al15 and Zilversmit et al¹⁶. Hexokinase and glucose-6 phosphatase were assayed by the method of Brandstrup et al¹⁷ and Koida and Oda¹⁸.

Statistical analysis for anti-nociceptive activity:

Numerical result are expresses as mean \pm SD, unless otherwise stated one way analysis of variance(ANOVA) was used for statistical comparison; P < 0.05 being the criterion for statistical significance. The significant treatment means were further subjected to Duncan multiple post test²⁰.

Statistical analysis for anti-diabetic activity:

All values were expressed as the mean obtained from number of experiments (n). Data from all the tables of normal animals, diabetic control animals, reference drug treated and CAEt treated animals were compared by ANOVA followed by Duncans multiples range test(DMRT)¹⁹.

Results:

1. Anti-nociceptive activity

The table 5 shows the time course of the anti-nociception producedby the CA Et (150,300,500,mg/kg,positive control like

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diclofenac sodium). CA Et 500mg/kg and Naloxone(Opioid antagonist) were decreased the antinociceptive activity of CA Et. Intraperitoneal administration of the extract resulted in significant and dose -dependent prolongation of the response latency in the hot plate test. The effect reached a peak at approximately at 60 minutes after administration and then gradually decreased.

2.Blood glucose and plasma insulin

Table 1 shows levels of blood glucose, plasma insulin, total haemoglobin, glycosylated haemoglobin, changes in body weight and urine sugar of normal and experimental rats. There was a significant elevation in blood glucose and glycosylated haemoglobin levels, while the plasma insulin and total haemoglobin levels decreased significantly in alloxan induced diabetic rats when compared with normal rats.

Administration of CAEt and Chlorpropamide tends to bring parameters significantly towards the normal. The effect of CAEt at a dose of 500mg/kg bodyweight was more highly significant than 150 mg, & 300 mg mg/kg body weight and therefore the dose was used for further biochemical studies.

In diabetic rats, the urine sugar was (+++) but in the case of CAEt treated rats at a dose of 150 mg and 300 mg/kg body weight showed decreased urine sugar(++) and (+) respectively. CAEt at a dose of 500mg /kg body weight, showed urine sugar as seen in normal rats. These effects were compared with Chlorpropamide.

3. Serum & Tissue Lipids

The effect of CAEt on serum and tissue lipids of normal and experimental rats are summerised in tables 2 and 3 respectively. A marked increase in the frequency of cholesterol ,free fatty acids , triglycerides, and phospholipids were observed in diabetic control rats. Treatment with CAEt significantly reduced the lipid levels.

4.HepaticHexokinase & Glucose -6-phosphatase

The activities of carbohydrate enzymes are represented in table 4. Activity of hexokinase in liver decreased markedly while the glucose-6-phosphatase activity increased significantly in diabetic conrol rats. Treatment with CAEt in diabetic rats increased the hexokinase activity and decreased the glucose-6-phosphatase ativity.

Table 1 Blood glucose, plasma insulin, total haemoglobin glycosylated haemoglobin, changes in body weight and urine sugar of normal and experimental animals.

Groups	Body wt.g Initial	Final	Fasting blood glucose mg/dl	Plasma insulin (ìu/ml)	Haemoglobi ng/dl	Glycosylated Hb.(mg/g Hb	Urine sugar ^A
Normal	197±11.40	207± 8.80	98.50±9.04°	15.04±0.1 ^a	13.85±1.72 a	0.22±0.01 ^a	Nil
Diabetic control	202±16.70	152± 14.66*	233±16.40 ^b	5.35±1.95 ^b	5.60±0.45 b	1.81±1.07 b	+++
Diabetic+ CA Et (150mg/kg	193±17.70	199± 16.33*	216±20.80 ^b	5.90±1.41 ^b	7.91±1.61 °	0.68±0.03 ^c	, ++
Diabetic+ CA Et (300mg/kg	199±18.30	209± 11.32*	159±15.20°	8.05±1.64 °	9.54±0.93 ^d	0.48±0.04 ^d	+

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14.16±0.67^d 12.5±1.91^e $0.37\pm.0.04^{e}$ Nil Diabetic+ 203±20.68 215± 114.3±11.30 CA Et 13.72* (500mg/kg) 11.36 ± 2.01^{d} 0.47 ± 0.04^{d} 125.6±11.32 12.70±0.65^e Diabetic+ 194±11.80 207± Trace 13.43* Chlorpro pamide 400 mg//kg)

Values are given as mean ±SD for six rats in each group.

Duncan procedure, Range for the level 2.89, 3.03,3.13,3.20,3.25.

Diabetic control was compared with normal ,*p<0.001

Experimental groups were compared with diabetic control*p<0.001.

Values not sharing a common superscript letter differ significantly at p<0.05(DMRT).

A- indicates 0.25% sugar and (+++) indicates>1% sugar

Table2
Changes in level of cholesterol, free fatty acids, triglycerides and phospholipids in serum of normal and experimental animals.

Groups	Cholesterol (mg/100ml)	Free fatty acids (mg/100ml)	Triglycerides (mg/100ml)	Phospholipi ds (mg/100ml)	
Normal Diabetic control Diabetic+CAEt	74.00 ±1.49 ^a 99.66±5.03 ^b 84.46±3.18 ^c	70.43±5.06 a 83.86±6.67 b 75.06±1.55 c	44.53±3.36 ^a 63.83±2.50 ^b 54.93±3.70 ^c	80.25±1.57 ^a 98.75±4.28 ^b 84.50±1.86 ^c	
500mg/kg					
Diabetic+Chlorpropamide. 400 mg/kg	91.26±2.37 ^d	78.51 ± 0.87^{d}	59.46±2.70 ^d	89.00±1.12 ^d	
Values are given as mean \pm S.D for six rats in each group.					
Values not sharing a common superscript letter differ significantly at p<0.05(DMRT). Duncan procedure, Range for the level 2.95, 3.09,3.20.					

Table3
Changes in levels of cholesterol, free fatty acids, triglycerides and phospholipids in liver of normal and experimental animals.

Groups	Cholesterol (mg/100g wet tissue)	Free fatty acids (mg/100g wet tissuc)	Triglycerid es (mg/100g wet tissue)	Phospholipids (mg/100g wet tissue)
Normal	329.04 ± 2.88^a	608.70± 31.68 a	348.88±14. 07 ^a	2.66± 0.11 ^a
Diabetic control	513.70± 6.88 ^b	914.22± 49.27 ^b	622.35±9.4 0 ^b	2.54± 0.08 ^b
Diabetic+CAEt (500mg/kg)	421.14± 5.40 °	775.09± 47.86°	441.98±12. 05 °	$2.02\pm 0.05^{\circ}$

Diabetic+Chlorpropamide. $442.98 \pm$ $807.67 \pm$ 530.19±11. $2.29 \pm$ 6.36 ^d (400 mg/kg)26.30° 0.10°

Values are given as mean \pm S.D for six rats in each group.

Values not sharing a common superscript letter differ significantly at p<0.05(DMRT). Duncan procedure, range for the level 2.95, 3.09,3.20.

Table4 Changes in activities of hexokinase and glucose-6-phosphatase in liver of normal and experimental animals.

Groups	Hexokinase(units ^A /g protein)	Glucose-6- phosphatase				
		(units ^B /gm protein)				
Normal	146.66±6.09 a	0.169±0.014 a				
Diabetic control	106.48±4.74 ^b	0.242±0.023 b				
Diabetic+CA Et500mg/kg	129.70±10.44 ^c	0.187±0.012 ac				
Diabetic+Chlorpropamide	124.20±6.40 °	0.200±0.008 °				
400mg/kg						
Values are given as mean \pm S.D for six rats						
in each group.						
Values not sharing a common surroussint						

Values not sharing a common superscript letter differ significantly at p<0.05(DMRT). Duncan procedure, Range for the level 2.95, 3.09,3.20.

A-μ moles of glucose phosphosylated/

B-μ moles of pi liberated/min.

Table5 Effect of CAEt on hot plate reaction time in mice

Group	T	ime(minutes)				One-wayANOVA		
(mg/kg)	Pre-	30	60	120	150	df	F	P
Control -saline	5.61±0.39 ^{ax}	5.46±0.54 ax	$5.46 \pm .53^{ax}$	6.20±0.61 ^a	5.32±0.68 ax	4,25	2.37	ns
CA Et 150	5.61 ± 0.37^{ax}	$6.04\pm0.37^{\text{ ax}}$	5.94 ± 0.12^{ax}	6.06 ± 0.42	6.27±0.42 ax	4,25	2.08	ns
CAEt 300	$6.16\pm0.66^{\text{ ax}}$	6.84±0.34 bax	7.53±0.58 by	7.6±0.26 bx	7.32±0.69 by	4,25	5.60 6	< 0.05
CAEt 500	5.74 ± 0.19^{ax}	8.82±0.26 ^{cy}	$9.40\pm0.72^{\text{ by}}$	8.6±0.30 cy	8.86±0.62 ^{by}	4,25	19.8 2	< 0.05
CAEt 500+Na loxone	5.22±0.16 ax	8.22±0.22 ^{dy}	8.8±0.68 ^{cy}	8.4±0.28 ^{dy}	8.64±0.58 ^{cy}	4,25	3.62	< 0.05
Diclofe nac	12.4±0.69 ax	16.4±0.48 cy	18.2 ± 0.80^{by}	15.2±0.24	13.4±0.48 ^{by}	4,25	57.2 0	<0.05
ANOV A F	1.535	51.510	35.458	45.728	21.86			
df	5,28	5,28	5,28	5,28	5.28			
р	Ns	< 0.05	< 0.05	< 0.05	< 0.05			
CASt Cassia assimilate astract								

CAEt= Cassia auriculata extract

Values are expressed in = Mean

±SD(sec).,n=6 in each group

Ad Sign ificantly different at p<0.05, in

the same column.

Xy Significantly different at p<0.05, in the

same column

DISCUSSION:

Our findings show that CAEt possesed antinociceptive, anti-diabetic, and anti-hyperlipedimic activities. The phyto compounds may be present in the crude extract of CAEt, that may account for the anti-nociceptive activity. Administration of CAEt showed significant anti-nociceptive activity in the hot plate. This results indicate that the plant extract possesses centrally and peripherally mediated antinociceptive properties²¹.

The hot plate method is one of the most common test for evaluating the analgesic efficacy of drugs/compounds in rodents²². However, care must be taken for drugs or compounds that produce positive results by modifying the behavior the rodents²³ . The inhibition of antinociception by Naloxone (an opioid antagonist). So the hot plate results were positive and mechanism of CA Et antinociception might involve opioid receptors. The potency of antinociception was less than Diclofenac sodium at similar doses. The results from the present study strongly indicate that the aqueous extract of CA possesses antinociceptive activity.

Alloxan is well known for its selective pancreatic islets Bcells cytotoxicity and has been extensively used to induce diabetes mellitus in animals. It interfere cellular metabolic oxidative mechanisms²⁴. Intraperitoneal administration of alloxan 150 mg/kg effectively induced diabetes in normal rats as reflected by glycosuria, hyperglycemia, polyphagia. polydipsia and body weight loss when with normal rats25. In our compared present study we have observed that an aqueous extract of CA can reverse these effects. The possible mechanism by which CA Et brings about its antihyperglycemic action mav be by potentiation pancreatic secretion of insulin from B-cells of islets or due to enhanced transport of blood glucose to peripheral tissue. This was clearly evidenced by the increased level of insulin in diabetic rats treated with CAEt.

In the case of anti-diabetic activity, anti-hyperlipidemic activity, level of blood

glucose, plasma insulin, total haemoglobin, glycosylated haemoglobin, changes in body weight and urine sugar of normal experimental rats. There was a significant elevation in blood glucose and glycosylated level, while the haemoglobin plasma insulin and total haemoglobin level decrease significantly in alloxan induced diabetic rats when compared with normal rats. Administration of CAEt and Chlorpropamide tends to bring parameters significantly towards the normal. The effect of CAEt at dose of 500mg/kg bodyweight was more highly significant than 150 and 300 mg mg/kg body weight and therefore the dose was used for further biochemical studies. In diabetic rats, the urine sugar was (+++) but in the case of CAEt treated rat at a dose of 150 and 300 mgkg body weight showed decrease in urine sugar(++) and (+) respectively. CAEt at a dose of 500mg/kg body weight, showed urine sugar as seen in normal rats. These effects were comparable with Chlorpropamide.

Activity of hexokinase in liver decreased markedly while the glucose-6-phosphatase activity increased significantly in diabetese conrol rats²⁶. Treatment with CAEt in diabetic rats increase the hexokinase activity and decreased the glucose-6-phosphatase activity.

We have observed a decrease in total haemoglobin during diabetes and this may be due to the formation of glycosylated haemoglobin. Increase in the level of haemoglobin in the animals wen CAEt may be due to decreased of blood glucose and glycosylated traemoglobin.

Anti hyperlipidemic effect of CA Et may be due to the down regulation of NADPH and NADH, a cofactor in the fat metabolism. Higher activity of glucose-6-phosphatase provides H+ which binds with NADP + in the form of NADPH and is helpful in the synthesis of fats from carbohydrates. When glycolysis slows down because of cellular activity, the pentose phosphate pathway still remain active in liver to break down glucose that continuously provides NADPH acetyl radicals into long fatty converts

acid chains. Metabolic aberration in alloxan induced diabetic rats suggests a high turn over of triglycerides and phospholipids²⁷. CAEt may antagonize metabolic aberration and there by restore normal metabolism by tilting the balance from high lipids to high carbohydrates turn over.

CAEt may be capable of oxidizing NADPH. Enhanced hexokinase activity in CAEt treated rats suggests greater uptake of glucose from blood by the liver cells. Activities of enzyme suggests that enhanced lipid metabolism during diabetes is shifted towards carbohydrate metabolism and it enhance the utilization of glucose at peripheral site. One of the possible actions of CAEt may be due to its inhibition of endogenous synthesis of lipids

It can be concluded from the data that CAEt significantly reduces the level of nociception, blood sugar, serum and tissue lipids. CAEt have beneficial effects on plasma insulin and hexokinase activity. Moreover its anti-hyperlipidemic effects could represent a protective mechanism against development of atherosclerosis.

Of course the information from the present study will be a golden coin in the wealth of pharmacological field

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