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Research Article

Chemistry

ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF *Lanata camera* LEAVES EXTRACT - AN IN VITRO STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Antioxidant activity of methanolic extract of *Lanata camera* whole plant were carried out for proving its utility in free radical mediated diseases including diabetic, cardiovascular, cancer etc. The methanolic extract was screened for in vitro antioxidant activity by nitric oxide radical scavenging, oxygen radical scavenging such as DPPH scavenging, superoxide anion radical scavenging, total antioxidant, metal chelation, hydroxyl and nitric oxide scavenging activity at different concentrations. Throughout the studies extract showed marked antioxidant activity. The antioxidant activity of the extract may be due to the phytochemicals present in it. The antioxidant activity was found to be concentration dependent and may be attributed to the presence of bioflavonoids content in the of *Lanata camera*. Overall, the plant extract is a source of natural antioxidants which might be helpful in preventing the progress of various oxidative stress mediated diseases including aging.

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INTRODUCTION

The adverse effects of oxidative stress on human health have become a serious issue. Under stress, our bodies produce more reactive oxygen species (ROS) (e.g., superoxide anion radicals, hydroxyl radicals and hydrogen peroxide) than enzymatic antioxidants (e.g., superoxide dismutase (SOD), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), and catalase) and non-enzymatic antioxidants (e.g., ascorbic acid (vitamin C),

α -tocopherol (vitamin E), glutathione, carotenoids, and flavonoids). This imbalance leads to cell damage (Bhatia et al., 2003; Peuchant et al., 2004) and health problems (Steer et al., 2002). A lack of antioxidants, which can quench the reactive free radicals, facilitates the development of degenerative diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, neurodegenerative diseases, Alzheimer's disease and inflammatory

diseases (Velavan, 2011; Alma et al, 2003). Natural and synthetic antioxidants are beneficial to free radical mediated diseases. Synthetic antioxidants, such as butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) and butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), have been widely used as antioxidants in the food industry and may be responsible for liver damage and carcinogenesis (Grice, 1988) For this reason, interest in the use of natural antioxidants has increased.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that 80% of the earth's inhabitants rely on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs, and most of this therapy involves the use of plant extracts and their active components (Winston, 1999). Plant and its products are rich sources of a phytochemicals and have been found to possess a variety of biological activities including antioxidant potential (Velavan *et al.*, 2007; Velavan, 2015). The majority of the active antioxidant constituents are flavonoids, isoflavones, flavones, anthocyanins, coumarins, lignans, catechins, and isocatechins. In addition to the above compounds found in natural foods, vitamins C and E, beta-carotene, and tocopherol are known to possess antioxidant potential (Prior, 2003). With this background and abundant source of unique active components harbored in plants. The chosen medicinal plant namely as *Lanata camera* (Tamil: Unni chedi). *Lanata camera* is considered as stomachic, aperients and antiseptic. Flow and tender shoots are diaphoretic and given in fevers. Hence, the free radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera* was not evaluated. Therefore, the present study were to investigate the free radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera* through the free radical scavenging such as DPPH scavenging, superoxide anion radical scavenging, total antioxidant, metal chelation and iron reducing power activity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals

Nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT), ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA), sodium nitroprusside (SNP), trichloro acetic acid (TCA), thio barbituric acid (TBA), potassium hexa cyano ferrate [$K_3Fe(CN)_6$], and L-ascorbic acid were purchased from Sisco Research Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., India. All other chemicals and solvents used were of analytical grade available commercially.

Plant materials

The fully mature *Lanata camera* leaves were collected in January 2015 from Tamil University campus, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, India from a single herb. The leaves were identified and authenticated by Dr. S. John Britto, The Director, the Rabinat Herbarium and centre for molecular systematic,

St. Joseph's college Trichy-Tamilnadu. India. A Voucher specimen (RCS001) has been deposited at the Rabinat Herbarium, St. Josephs College, Thiruchirappalli, Tamil nadu, India.

Preparation of alcoholic extract

The collected *Lanata camera* leaves were washed several times with distilled water to remove the traces of impurities from the leaves. The leaves were dried at room temperature and coarsely powdered. The powder was extracted with different extracts (Ethanol, Petroleum ether, methanol and aqueous) for 48 hours. A semi solid extract was obtained after complete elimination of alcohol under reduced pressure. The *Lanata camera* leaves extract (LCLE) was stored in refrigerator until used. Doses such as 20, 40, 60 and 80 μ g/ml were chosen for *in vitro* antioxidant activity.

In vitro antioxidant activity

The antioxidant activity of the extracts was evaluated by the phosphomolybdenum method according to the procedure of Prieto *et al.* (1999). The scavenging activity of the *Lanata camera* towards superoxide anion radicals was measured by the method of Liu *et al.* (1997). The chelating activity of the extracts for ferrous ions Fe^{2+} was measured according to the method of Dinis *et al.* (1994). The Fe^{3+} reducing power of the extract was determined by the method of Oyaizu (1986). The scavenging activity for hydroxyl radicals was measured with Fenton reaction by the method of Yu *et al.*, (2004). Nitric oxide radical scavenging activity was determined according to the method reported by Garrat (1964).

Statistical analysis: Tests were carried out in triplicate for 3–5 separate experiments. The amount of extract needed to inhibit free radicals concentration by 50%, IC_{50} , was graphically estimated using a nonlinear regression algorithm.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Phytochemicals are biologically active, naturally occurring chemical compounds found in plants, which provide health benefits for humans. Plant produces these chemicals to protect itself but recent research demonstrates that many phytochemicals can protect humans against diseases. There are many phytochemicals fruits and herbs and each works differently. The phytochemical screening of *Lanata camera* reported that the presence of flavonoids, terpenoids, steroids, tannin, saponins, glycosides, phlopatannins, carbohydrate, triterpenoids, protein, alkaloids and anthroquinones (Sanjeeb Kalita., 2012).

DPPH Assay

DPPH radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera* extract and standard as ascorbic acid are presented in Fig 1. The DPPH radical was widely used to evaluate the free-radical scavenging capacity of antioxidants (Nuutila *et al.*, 2003). Recently, the use of the DPPH[•] reaction has been widely diffused among food technologists and researchers, for the evaluation of free radical scavenging activity on extracts from plant, food material or on single compounds. In the DPPH assay, the antioxidant was able to reduce the stable radical DPPH to the yellow colored 1, 1-diphenyl-1, 2-picryl hydrazine. The molecule of 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picryl hydrazine is characterised as a stable free radical by virtue of the delocalisation of the spare electron over

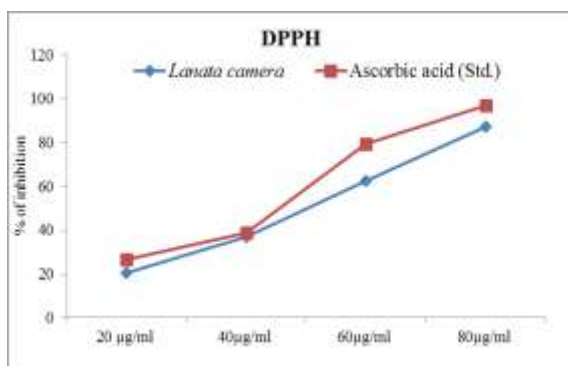


Fig. 1. DPPH radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera*

Total antioxidant activity

The yield of the methanol extract of the plant extract and its total antioxidant capacity are given in Fig. 2. Total antioxidant capacity of *Lanata camera* extract is expressed as the number of equivalents of ascorbic acid. The phosphomolybdenum method was based on the reduction of Mo (VI) to Mo (V) by the antioxidant compound and the formation of a green phosphate/ Mo (V) complex with a maximal absorption at 695 nm. The assay is successfully used to quantify vitamin E in seeds and, being simple and independent of other antioxidant measurements commonly employed, it was decided to extend its application to plant extract (Prieto *et al.*, 1999). Moreover, it is a quantitative one, since the antioxidant activity is expressed as the number of equivalents of ascorbic acid. The study reveals that the antioxidant activity of the extract is in the increasing trend with the increasing concentration of the plant extract. The half inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) of plant extract and ascorbic acid were 50.80 µg ml⁻¹ and 45.48 µg ml⁻¹ respectively.

the molecule as a whole. The proton transfer reaction of the DPPH[•] free radical by a scavenger (A-H) causes a decrease in absorbance at 517 nm, which can be followed by a common spectrophotometer set in the visible region. The effect of antioxidants on DPPH[•] is thought to be due to their hydrogen donating ability (Sindhu and Abraham, 2006). The half inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) of plant extract and ascorbic acid were 48.51 µg ml⁻¹ and 41.81 µg ml⁻¹ respectively. The plant extract exhibited a significant dose dependent inhibition of DPPH activity. The potential of L-ascorbic acid to scavenge DPPH radical is directly proportional to the concentration. The DPPH assay activity is near to standard as ascorbic acid.

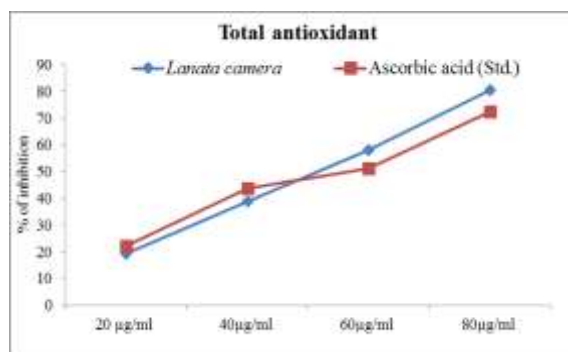


Fig. 2. Total antioxidant assay of *Lanata camera*

Superoxide anion radical scavenging activity

Superoxide is biologically important since it can be decomposed to form stronger oxidative species such as singlet oxygen and hydroxyl radicals, is very harmful to the cellular components in a biological system (Korycka-Dahl & Richardson, 1978). The superoxide anion radical scavenging activity of the extract from *Lanata camera* assayed by the PMS-NADH system was shown in Fig 3. The superoxide scavenging activity of *Lanata camera* was increased

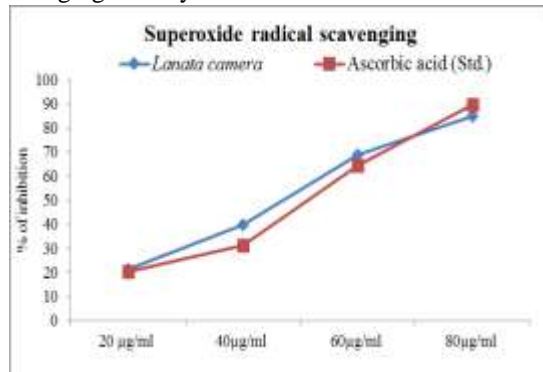


Fig. 3. Super oxide scavenging activity of *Lanata camera*

markedly with the increase of concentrations. The half inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) of *Lanata camera* was 48.89µg ml⁻¹ and ascorbic acid were 46.60µg ml⁻¹ respectively. These results suggested that *Lanata camera* had notably superior superoxide radical scavenging effects.

The ferrous ion chelating activity

Ferrozine can make complexes with ferrous ions. In the presence of chelating agents, complex (red colored) formation is interrupted and as a result, the red color of the complex is decreased. Thus, the chelating effect of the coexisting chelator can be determined by measuring the rate of color reduction. The formation of the ferrozine- Fe²⁺ complex is interrupted in the presence of aqueous extract of *Lanata camera*, indicating that have chelating activity with an IC₅₀ of 51.36µg ml⁻¹ and ascorbic acid was 45.91µg ml⁻¹ respectively (Fig. 4). Ferrous iron can initiate lipid peroxidation by the Fenton reaction as well as accelerating peroxidation by decomposing lipid hydroperoxides into peroxy and alkoxy radicals (Halliwell, 1991; Fridovich, 1995). Metal chelating activity can contribute in reducing the concentration of the catalyzing transition metal in lipid peroxidation. Furthermore, chelating agents that form s bonds with a metal are effective as secondary antioxidants because they reduce the redox potential, and thereby stabilize the oxidized form of the metal ion (Gordon, 1990). Thus, *Lanata camera* demonstrate a marked capacity for iron binding, suggesting their ability as a peroxidation protector that relates to the iron binding capacity

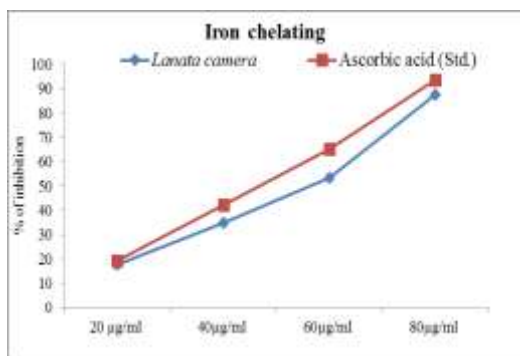


Fig. 4. Ferrous iron chelating activity of *Lanata camera*

Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera*

Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity of ethanolic extract was measured by 1, 10 phenanthroline-Fe²⁺ complex oxidation method. Fe²⁺ was formed when ferrous sulphate added to hydrogen peroxide. This formed ferrous ion reacts with 1, 10

phenanthroline and forms 1, 10 phenanthroline Fe²⁺ complex which is acts as indicator in oxidation reduction reaction. Simultaneously the hydroxyl radical formed from the H₂O₂-Fe²⁺ reaction mixture oxidize Phenanthroline - Fe²⁺ into Phenanthroline - Fe³⁺ complex. Presence of free radical scavenger in the extract reduces the oxidation reaction accompanied with reduction in the absorbance which can be measured quantitatively at 560 nm (Olabinri et al., 2010). Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera* increased with increasing dosage (Fig 5). The half inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) of *Lanata camera* was 46.10µg/ml-1 and ascorbic acid were 35.26 µg/ml-1 respectively..

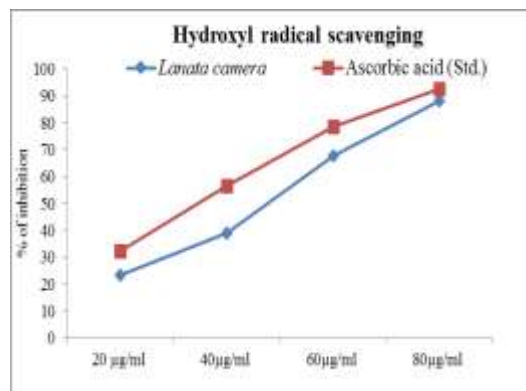


Fig.5 . Hydroxyl radical scavenging activity of *Lanata camera*

Nitric oxide scavenging activity of *Lanata camera*

Nitric oxide (NO•) released from sodium nitroprusside (SNP) has a strong NO⁺ character which can alter the structure and function of many cellular components. The extract of *Lanata camera* exhibited good NO• scavenging activity leading to the reduction of the nitrite concentration in the assay medium. The NO• scavenging capacity was concentration dependent with 80µg/ml scavenging most efficiently. The *Lanata camera* in SNP solution significantly inhibited the accumulation of nitrite, a stable oxidation product of NO• liberated from SNP in the reaction medium with time compared to the standard ascorbic acid. The toxicity of NO• increases when it reacts with superoxide to form the peroxynitrite anion (•ONOO⁻), which is a potential strong oxidant that can decompose to produce •OH and NO₂ (Pacher et al., 2007). The present study shows that *Lanata camera* leaf extract has a potent nitric oxide scavenging activity. The nitric oxide scavenging activity of *Lanata camera* increased with increasing concentrations (Fig 6). The half inhibition concentration (IC₅₀) of *Lanata camera* was 46.10µg/ml-1 and ascorbic acid were 35.26 µg/ml-1 respectively.

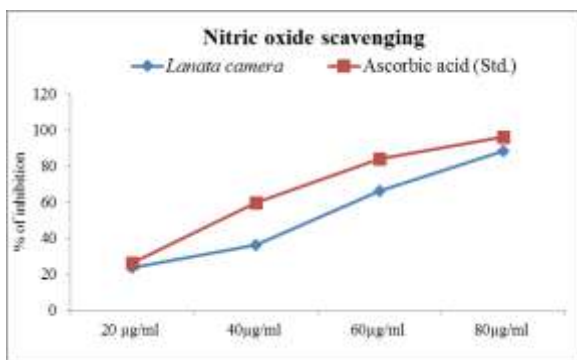


Fig 6 Nitric oxide scavenging activity of *Lanata camera*

CONCLUSION

The results of the present study showed that the extract of *Lanata camera* extract which contains of

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