

In Vivo and In Vitro evaluation of Immunomodulatory Potential Of Cassia auriculata Linn's

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Abstract

The current research set out to examine *Cassia auriculata* Linn's immunomodulatory potential both in vitro and in vivo. The immunomodulatory ability of plant methanol extracts was examined in a number of in-vitro models, as well as in an in-vivo model of oxazolone-induced cell-mediated inflammation in rats. Scientifically, several activity models were used to screen methanolic extracts of roots and flowers. Methanolic floral extract has immunomodulatory activity, as shown by oxazolone-induced cell-mediated inflammation. On the other hand, methanolic floral extract exhibited dose-dependent stimulation in in-vitro immunomodulatory models such as the NBT reduction test using human PMN cells. The phagocytosis of *Candida albicans* by human PMN was also seen using the same extract. A dose-dependent rise in candidacidal activity was also seen in the methanolic floral extract. The methanolic floral extract showed stronger effects than the positive control in inducing chemotaxis of human PMN cells. This means that methanolic floral extract has an immunostimulant effect in vitro, and it dramatically decreased rat ear edema in a dose-dependent way in an in-vivo investigation of oxazolone-induced delayed type hypersensitivity. Because of its antioxidant capability, the in-vitro tests showed that methanolic floral extract has strong immunomodulatory activity. All things considered, the data shown here suggest that *Cassia auriculata* has strong immunomodulatory action with its purported cytoprotective benefits. In chronic inflammatory conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, for example, a methanolic floral extract high in flavonoids may be used to lessen the dosage and dose-related toxicities of conventional medications.

Keywords: *Cassia auriculata*, oxazolone, immunomodulatory, NBT test

Introduction

Wild in central and western India, the evergreen shrub Cassia auriculata Linn. has enormous, brilliant yellow blooms and is a member of the Leguminosae family. Extreme drought and lengthy water stays were both documented as conditions in which plants not only survived, but also proceeded normally with ontogenetic processes including blooming and fruiting. Accordingly, our findings provided conclusive evidence that plants produce specific secondary metabolites that aid in survival under these stressful conditions. There are a number of things that the Cassia genus is famous for.(1) In traditional medicine, Cassia auriculata has many uses, including alleviating symptoms of chronic purulent ophthalmia, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, cough, asthma, and other conditions.(2) It's suggested for nocturnal emission, sore throat gargling, enemas, rheumatism, eye problems, and urinary disorders and skin ailments.(3) Diarrhea is treated with its decoction, and dysentery is treated with its fresh bark juice. Several species' aqueous extracts showed hypoglycemic effects.(4,5) Cassia auriculata herbal tea, made from dried flowers,

is popular in Sri Lanka because to its favorable benefits on diabetes mellitus, constipation, and urinary tract problems. Furthermore, the plant's antibacterial, antiviral, antispasmodic, antioxidant, hypolipidemic, and oral hypoglycemic effects have been studied from a contemporary pharmacological perspective.(10) When exposed to cisplatin and gentamicin, the rat's kidneys were protected by the root's ethanolic extract.(11) Animal studies showed that the water-based seed extract had a hypoglycemic effect.(12) Flavonoids, triterpenoids, kaempferol, β -sitosterol, auricassin, and anthracene derivatives were among the phytochemicals found in the plant.(13) Polysaccharides, tannins, saponins, and flavonoids such as rutin and quercetin.(14) The purpose of this work was to examine the immunomodulatory potential of methanolic extracts of Cassia auriculata flowers and roots, since the literature review indicated that the plant is promising and has shown a broad range of pharmacological activity.

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Materials and Method

Collection and authentication of the plant material:

The plant material including flowers, roots and

other morphological parts of *Cassia auriculata* were collected from the dry stony hilly area of village Holnanthe, Dhule district of Maharashtra, with the help of local tribes. The specimen was prepared and authenticated by Department of Botany, S.S.V.P.S'sL.

K. Dr. Ghogrey Science College of Dhule, Maharashtra, India. A voucher specimen (MMR-03) has been preserved for future reference. The flowers and roots were washed, cleaned; shade dried and then powder was made and passed through a 40-mesh sieve,

and kept in a well-closed container for extraction purpose.

Preparation of standardized extracts: The coarse powder of flowers and roots, 3000 gm each was extracted out by cold maceration method by using methanol (80%) as a solvent. These extracts were concentrated in rotary vacuum evaporator (Roteva-Equitron, Mumbai) under reduced pressure and then dried by vacuum dryer. Then extracts were screened for their prime phytochemical content.

Phytochemical analysis of the methanolic extracts: The conventional phytochemical tests were carried out on methanolic extracts of flowers and roots of

Cassia auriculata and confirmed the presence of different classes of secondary metabolites like flavonoids, phenolics, and triterpenoids.⁽¹⁵⁾

Animals: Healthy Wistar albino rats of either sex weighing about 180-

200 gm were used for immunomodulatory potential. Rats were fed with standard diet, water ad libitum and were housed in polypropylene cages maintained under standard condition of 12/12 hrs. of light and dark cycles.

The ethical clearance was obtained by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee R.C. Patel College of Pharmacy, Shirpur, Dist- Dhule (Maharashtra) (Registration no. 651/02/c/CPCSEA) before the experiment.

Immunomodulatory activity

In-vivo model: Oxazolone-induced immune type

of inflammation: Following the protocol given, researchers examined the impact of 80% methanolic flower and root extracts on immunological type inflammation produced by 4-ethoxymethylene-2-phenyl-2-oxazolone (oxazolone).⁽¹⁶⁾ A total of six groups were formed from Wistar albino rats weighing 180–200 gm. following the rats were sensitized with 300 µl of 2% oxazolone on their shaved abdomen, they were given 60 µl of 1.6% oxazolone to rub on both sides of their ears every three days beginning seven days following sensitization. The ear thickness was assessed 72 hours after each oxazolone administration using a micrometer (0.01-0.0 mm, Mitutoyo Corporation, Japan). A total of 60 µl of betamethasone valerate was administered to each ear 30 minutes before and 3 hours after each oxazolone treatment. Thirty minutes before to and three hours after each administration of oxazolone, the groups that were treated with extracts received doses of 200 mg/kg of flower extract and 400 mg/kg of root extract, respectively. The experiment lasted for twenty-two days. The correct concentrations of oxazolone and betamethasone valerate (both from Sigma) were dissolved in ethanol. For the first sensitization, 2% oxazolone was dissolved in ethanol. For subsequent ear applications, 1.6% oxazolone was dissolved in a vehicle (acetone: olive oil, 4:1). Table 1 displays the results.

Table 1: In-vivo oxazolone induced inflammation (Delayed type hypersensitivity)

Sr. No.	Group	Dose mg/kg p.o.	7 th day	10 th day	13 th day	16 th day	19 th day	22 nd day
1	Negative control	---	0.46±0.0076	0.59±0.012	0.65±0.010	0.69±0.0079	0.73±0.014	0.78±0.011
2	Positive Control ^a	60 µl	0.46±0.011	0.52±0.0095**	0.50±0.012**	0.51±0.014**	0.49±0.010**	0.48±0.012**
3	CAMF	200	0.45±0.011	0.51±0.010**	0.55±0.0060**	0.60±0.0060**	0.64±0.010**	0.68±0.011**
4	CAMF	400	0.44±0.012	0.53±0.012**	0.55±0.014**	0.58±0.014**	0.62±0.019**	0.65±0.019**
5	CAMR	200	0.45±0.0095	0.55±0.017*	0.58±0.015**	0.62±0.011**	0.66±0.013**	0.71±0.0080**
6	CAMR	400	0.45±0.0067	0.56±0.010*	0.59±0.015**	0.62±0.013**	0.66±0.019**	0.69±0.019**

Values are expressed as mean ± SEM, n=6

Data analysed by Oneway ANNOVA followed by Dunnett's test **P<0.01, *P<0.05 CAMF-

Cassia auriculata methanolic flower extract.

CAMR-*Cassia auriculata* methanolic root extract. a-

Betamethasone valerate.

In-vitro immunomodulatory assays

Nitroblue Tetrazolium (NBT) test: A human volunteer in good health had her blood collected into

tubes that contained the anticoagulant heparin. Using the dextran sedimentation technique, PMN cells were isolated from the blood sample. The

sterile centrifuge tubes were filled to capacity with a 6% w/v dextran solution in saline, and then the blood was added. For 15 minutes, the tube was left at room temperature. After collecting the liquid portion and the colored layer on top of the red blood cell layer using an automated pipette, the pellet was spun in a centrifuge, rinsed three times with phosphate-buffered saline, and then re-dissolved in methyl ethylcellulose (MEM) at a concentration of 5×10^6 cells/ml.(17)

A leucocyte suspension (5×10^6 cells/ml) and a 0.3% NBT in sucrose solution were made in MEM. From a stock solution of 10 mg/ml, it was modified to extract concentrations ranging from 2500µg/ml, 1250µg/ml, 625µg/ml, 250µg/ml, and 125µg/ml. A combination of MEM, PMN cells, NBT compound,

and extract made up the final cocktail. In the positive control, endotoxin was substituted for the extract.(number one) Twenty minutes were spent incubating the tubes at 37°C, followed by another twenty minutes at room temperature. Once the incubation period was over, the assay tubes were gently shaken, and 20 µl of the assay mixture was transferred to microscope slides in order to make smears. I used an oil immersion microscope (Labomed CXL Plus Sl. Microscope, Model No.-038086) to look for NBT positive cells that had phagocytosed NBT dye. After the slides were air dried, they were stained with Giemsa's stain.(19) The percentage of cells that tested positive for NBT is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Effect of *Cassia auriculata* extracts on *in vitro* stimulation of Human PMN cells for NBT reduction

Sr. No.	Concentration (µg)	CAMF	CAMR
1	2500	22±0.70	47.25±0.47*
2	1250	41±0.40*	43.75±0.75*
3	625	41.25±0.47*	40.75±0.47*
4	250	31.50±0.64*	40.50±0.64*
5	125	28.50±0.64*	30.00±0.40*

Values are expressed as Mean±SEM, n=4

*p<0.01 vs negative control

Negative control 21.25±0.47, positive control 48.00±0.40

(CAMF) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic flower extract

(CAMR) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic root extract

Phagocytosis: The PMN cell suspension was prepared as stated above. The count of PMN cells was adjusted approximately to 5×10^6 cells/ml. For preparation

of *Candida albicans* (*C. albicans*) suspension, 12-hour old, unicellular culture of *C. albicans* was used. The candida cell suspension was prepared in PBS at a concentration of about 5×10^6 cells/ml. It was adjusted to concentrations of all extracts ranging from 2500 µg/ml, 1250 µg/ml, 625 µg/ml, 250 µg/ml, 125 µg/ml from stock solution (10 mg/ml). The final mixture

contained MEM, PMN cells, *C. albicans* cells and extract. In the positive control assay unit, instead of fruit extract, 100 µl of serum derived from the same human volunteer was taken.

The assay tubes were incubated for 30 min at 37°C. At the end of the incubation period, the tubes were centrifuged and small amounts of the residues were taken on separate microscopy slides. Smears were prepared, air dried and stained with Giemsa's stain. Neutrophils were examined for the number of ingested and associated *C. albicans* with each cell.^(20,21) Average

number of *C. albicans* associated PMN cell was determined for each assay unit as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Effect of *Cassia auriculata* extract on phagocytosis of *Candida albicans* by Human PMN *in vitro*

Sr. No.	Concentration (µg)	CAMF	CAMR
1	2500	4.5±0.28	4.00±0.0
2	1250	4.2±0.25	3.75±0.25
3	625	2.5±0.28*	3.5±0.28
4	250	2.2±0.25**	3.5±0.28
5	125	2.75±0.25	2.75±0.25

Values are expressed as Mean±SEM, n=4

* p<0.05 **p<0.01 Control 3.75±0.25

(CAMF) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic flower extract (CAMR) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic root extract

Candida disc assay: Same procedure and dilutions were followed as mentioned in section B-II (Phagocytosis) and the pellets of the assay tubes were again suspended in 100 µl MEM and further incubated at 37°C for 30

minutes. At the end of the incubation period, 0.25 ml sodium deoxycholate (2.5% in PBS) was added to each tube to lyse the leucocytes. After this, 0.25 ml 0.01% methylene blue was added to each tube and mixed well. The tubes were centrifuged, supernatant was decanted and smears were prepared on microscopic slides using resultant pellets. The percentage

of dead *Candida* cells (stained) in each case was determined.

The time schedule was adjusted in such a way that after addition of methylene blue to an assay tube, the readings were taken within next 5 minutes as shown in Table 4.⁽²²⁾

Table 4: Effect of *Cassia auriculata* extracts on in cell killing of *Candida albicans*

Sr. No.	Concentration (µg)	CAMF	CAMR
1	2500	35.25±0.47**	33.50±0.28
2	1250	35.25±0.47**	31.25±0.47
3	625	30.25±.25**	31.75±0.25
4	250	28.00±0.40**	30.50±0.28
5	125	20.00±0.40**	21.75±0.62**

Values are expressed as Mean±SEM, n=4

* p<0.05 ** p<0.01 Control 32.00±0.40

(CAMF) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic flower extract (CAMR) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic root extract

Chemotaxis

Boyden's Chamber: It was simple self-

constructed apparatus in which the lower chamber is a 5 ml beaker and upper chamber is a tuberculin syringe with filter to its lower end. In upper chamber in which the cell suspension is placed, this is separated by a micropore

filter (5µm) (Millipore, Cat. No. SMWP-04700) from the lower chamber, in which the chemotactic factor was placed as shown in Fig. 1.⁽²³⁾

The upper compartment of Boyden's chamber was filled with cell suspension ensuring that the fluid level in the upper chamber was same as in the lower chamber, otherwise the gradient will be disturbed (0.2 ml solution was used in upper compartment of Boyden's chamber). Allowed the filters to wet from the top before putting them in the lower compartment.

When the upper compartment was placed in the lower compartment, the concentration of chemotactic factor through the filter was zero and as soon as the filter was placed in the chemotactic solution, the gradient begins to form from the bottom of filter.

1. Filters were transferred from methanol to distilled water then,
2. Distilled water for 1 min.
3. Harris Haematoxylin for 30 sec. to 1 min.
4. Distilled water for 1 min.
5. Tap water for 10 min.
6. 6.70% ethanol for 1 min.
7. Then in a mixture of: 95 ethanol 80 ethanol 20 butanol for 5 min.
8. Finally in Xylo for 10 min.

And then filter was put it on slide taking care that lower surface of filter which was in lower compartment must be on upper side on the slide.

The cover slip was put on slide and examined cell migration microscopically. The count of cell on the lower surface was directly proportional to the number of cells placed on the top of the filter at the start of the experiment. The observations were recorded as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Effect of *Cassia auriculata* extracts on human PMN cells chemotaxis.

Sr. No.	Concentration µg	CAMF	CAMR
1	2500	144.3±0.85**	68.00±0.40**
2	1250	130.8±0.47**	159.5±0.64**
3	625	131.3±0.47**	130.8±0.47**
4	250	118.8±0.47**	110.8±0.47**
5	125	110.5±0.28**	78.25±0.47**

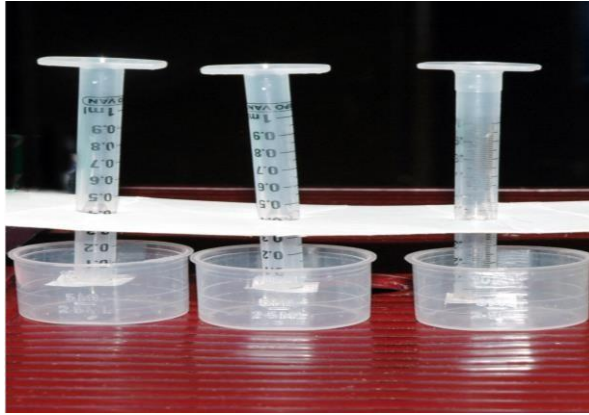


Fig.1: Boyden's Chamber

Procedure

The upper compartments of the assay units contained PMN cell suspension in MEM at concentration of about 1×10^6 cells/ml. The lower compartments contained 2.5 ml PBS consisting of different concentrations of the methanolic flower extracts as 2500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, 1250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, 625 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, 250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$, 125 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. In a positive control assay unit, lower compartment contained 2.5 ml PBS and 0.5 ml casein solution (5 mg/ml). The negative control assay unit contained only 3 ml of PBS in the lower compartment.⁽²⁴⁾

All the assay units were incubated at 37°C for 75 minutes, and the cells were allowed to migrate.

At the end of the incubation period, the filters attached to the tuberculin syringe in each assay unit were picked off gently with forceps, fixed with 70% methanol and it was stained. After a few minutes in the alcohol, the glue was melted and the filter was become loose from the bottom of the syringe barrel. While care was taken to touch only the rim and not the surface of the filter.⁽²⁵⁾

Staining: Staining was the important step in chemotaxis.

Staining procedure was as follows:

Values are expressed as Mean \pm SEM, $n=4$

** $p < 0.01$ vs negative control

Negative control 20.75 ± 0.47 , positive control 136.00 ± 0.40

(CAMF) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic flower extract (CAMR) *Cassia auriculata* methanolic root extract

Result and Discussion

A recently produced anti-inflammatory drug's therapeutic modalities may be better assessed by studying the delayed type hypersensitivity response in rats' ear skin. Flowers and roots were both tested in oxazolone-induced immunological type of

inflammation using methanolic extracts. The in-vivo model findings demonstrated that, in comparison to the methanolic root extract, the immunomodulatory effects of the floral extract were more powerful and dosage dependent.

When it comes to diagnosing bacterial infections, the NBT test has seen extensive use. Research on immunodeficiency illnesses also makes use of NBT testing. The NBT test examined in vitro activities and found that endotoxin-treated neutrophils reduced Nitrobluetetrazolium (NBT) dye more effectively. Based on these results, it seems that bacterial endotoxins influence how neutrophils and lymphocytes in the human blood work. The fundamental idea behind the NBT test is to assess the percentage of neutrophils with blue deposits; only activated neutrophils can reduce the NBT dye. A healthy human volunteer's PMN cells were used in the NBT test. Both neutrophils and monocytes have shown a high rate of spontaneous NBT decrease. The number of NBT positive cells is significantly increased when *E. coli* endotoxin is used to stimulate monocytes and neutrophils. There was a correlation between the concentration of extracts utilized and the rise in NBT reduction by neutrophils following incubation. In the NBT test, methanolic flower extract was more active than methanolic root extract at all doses. Concentration determined the degree to which NBT was reduced. The methanolic floral extract significantly reduced the NBT compound at greater concentrations, much as the positive control. These results show that the methanolic floral extract increases neutrophil activation and, by extension, the decrease of NBT compound.

Human PMN cell phagocytosis assays show that PMN cell spans engulf *Candida albicans* after recognizing it as an alien particle. In this experiment, we counted the number of cells that had *C. albicans* attached to them after they were consumed. The PMN cell phagocytosis activity was enhanced by both extracts, although the methanolic flower extract was more effective than the

methanolic root extract.

Serum served as the gold standard in the candidacidal test. Using *Candida albicans*, researchers investigated how macrophages eliminate microbes that have been consumed. The findings show that the production of oxygen metabolites by the phagocytic cell is crucial for the effective candidacidal action of macrophages.

The efficacy of the methanolic *Cassia auriculata* flower extract as a candidacid was concentration dependant and statistically significant across all concentration levels. When compared to the positive control, the methanolic extract performed better at greater concentrations. While the methanolic flower extract was more effective against candida, the methanolic root extract was similarly effective.

Neutrophils and macrophages engage in chemotaxis when they migrate to the area around an antigenic agent and toward a chemotactic material. To prime and stimulate leukocytes, bacterial endotoxin is an effective agonist. There was a dose- and time-dependent response from neutrophils in suspension when exposed to the endotoxins (lipopolysaccharides, LPS). The neutrophils were activated with various endotoxins in varying amounts. The chemotaxis activity was maximum in the methanolic floral extract, while it was lowest in the methanolic root extract. In contrast to the 136.0 and 20.0 obtained by the positive and negative controls, respectively, the methanolic roots extract at a 5µg dosage had a maximal activity of 159.5. Nevertheless, at a greater dosage of 10µg, the activity was noticeably diminished. The activity of the methanolic floral extract increased cell migration in a concentration-dependent manner.

Conclusion

With a long history of traditional usage, *Cassia auriculata* Linn. has shown promise as a folk medicinal herb. The plant has recently been rationalized by screening it via several pharmacological activities. Research findings indicated that the herb has potential pharmacological effects. The plant is increasingly gaining relevance in the pharmaceutical field because to the large number of active phytoconstituents that have been extracted from it. This study compared the immunomodulatory activity of methanolic flower extract with that of methanolic root extract using a battery of in-vivo and in-vitro models, and the results showed that the former had much stronger effects. This means that flowers have a lot of room to grow in the realm of future therapeutic research, thanks to their many diverse applications.

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