Research Article

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Anti-Helicobacter pylori and Cytotoxic activity of
detoxified root of Plumbago auriculata, Plumbago
indica and Plumbago zeylanica

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Abstract

Anti-Helicobacter pylori and cytotoxic activity of detoxified root ethanol extract of Plumbago auriculata, Plumbago indica and Plumbago zeylanica. These three Plumbaginales root were detoxified with lime water and prepared the ethanol extract. Ethanol extract of these plants are possible activity against H. pylori and cytotoxicity activity with MTT assay in HGE-17 cell lines. These three plants ethanol extract (50-250 µg/ml) have dose dependent cytotoxicity activity in HGE-17 cell lines. Zone of inhibition test of these Plumbaginales plants ethanol extract against H. pylori have significant activity. Plumbago indica (10 mg) have more activity compared to other two plants. Three Plumbaginales detoxified plants root have cytotoxicity in HGE-17 cell lines and antibacterial activity in H. pylori. Based on our results these three detoxified plants root are used for H. pylori induced gastric ulcer.

Keywords: Plumbago auriculata, Plumbago indica, Plumbago zeylanica, Ulcer, H. pylori.

Introduction

Peptic ulcer disease (PUD) is one of the most common, chronic gastrointestinal disorders in modern era. It has become a common global health problem affecting a large number of peoples worldwide and also still a major cause of morbidity and mortality. An estimated 15,000 deaths occur each year as a consequence of PUD in India. A report of the Indian Council of Medical Research on the epidemiology of peptic ulcer in India showed that the overall incidence of the disease ranged up to 7% in the age group of 15 years and above in the selected urban population.1 This situation forced to found a new medicine for peptic ulcer, especially H. pylori induced ulcers.

Reviews of the drugs derived from herbal plants which are more commonly used in the world for treatment of peptic ulcer and H. pylori, which can say as anti-ulcer activity and having gastroprotective effects; it is reported that the Plumbago indica is having antibacterial activity and Mullu Kuruma tribe of Wayanad district in Kerala uses ethnomedicines like P. indica as antibacterial Herb.2, 3 Plumbago zeylanica is kill intestinal parasites4 and it is also used as antibacterial agent in Panchakarma Ayurvedic Therapy5 and also in Taiwanese folk medicine for anti-Helicobacter activity.6 The tribal’s of Maharashtra are having the habit of consuming the root juice or extract of Plumbago auriculata for gastric acidity before each meal for a weak.7 The investigations based on the enzymatic screening with the root extracts of P. Indica,
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P. zeylanica, and P. auriculata has shown the presence of some powerful enzymes in the root of Plumbago species which act as gastro-intestinal flora normaliser. The P. zeylanica flowers showed greater effect on digestive stimulus activity than the other Plumbago species. Ethnomedicinal plants to fight neoplastic diseases by P. zeylanica is used for treating diarrhoea, dysentery, piles and peptic ulcers, which can later develops to neoplasm. These reviews already reported that these selected plants of Plumbago species may protect the gastric mucosa may cure gastric ulcers. Hence we assess the significance of these observations to give a scientific explanation to the anti- H. pylori and cytotoxicity activity of P. indica, P. zeylanica and P. auriculata pants in Plumbaginacea.

Materials and Methods

Detoxification and ethanol extract preparation

Roots of P. auriculata, P. indica and P. zeylanica (1 Kg) were dried, coarsely powdered and soaked in lime water separately. The lime water was frequently changed till the red colouration of lime water disappears. Then the roots are again dried, finely powdered and extracted using soxhlet apparatus for 6 hours using ethanol as solvent. The extract was concentrated and dried at 40 degree C under low pressure using rotary vacuum evaporator. The percentage yield of P. auriculata, P. indica and P. zeylanica ethanol extract were 0.78, 1.5 and 1.37 respectively.

Microculture tetrazolium (MTT) Assay

Cell viability was assessed by MTT assay (Micro culture tetrazolium/formazan assay) in the presence and absence of different concentrations of the plants extract. The cells were seeded in 96-well plates. Four wells for each concentration were seeded and triplicate plates were used the cell line. Then, the cells were incubated at 37° C. After 24 h the medium was replaced by fresh medium containing different concentrations of the plants extract. Then, the medium was changed by fresh medium containing MTT with a final concentration of 0.5 mg/ml (after 24 h). The cells were incubated for another 4 h in a humidified atmosphere at 37° C and after that the medium containing MTT was removed and remaining MTT formazan crystals were dissolved in DMSO. The absorbance was measured at 570 nm. IC₅₀ was defined as the concentration of the extract that produced a 50% inhibition in cell viability relative to the negative control which was wells exposed to the solvent without any extract.

Inhibitory-zone testing

The extracts were used for inhibitory-zone testing with concentration of 100 µg/ml. Anti- H. pylori inhibitory-zone testing consisted of three plants ethanol extract against H. pylori. A volume of 0.1-ml of each tested H. pylori suspension was spread onto a Columbia agar plate. Wells were punched (5 mm) on the plates and the extract [ethanol as solvent] was individually incorporated into the wells (10 mg / well). Ethanol was used as control. The plates were diffused at 4°C for 2 h and subsequently incubated in a microaerophilic jar system (5% O₂ and 10% CO₂) at 37° C for 72 h. The clear zone around each well was observed and its diameter was examined.

Statistical analysis

The values are expressed as mean ± SD and the significance between different groups were determined by one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey’s multiple comparison has been done, with a P value of cytotoxicity study is 0.0044, F value of 6.485 and zone of inhibition study is P<0.0001, F value of 284.9. Probit values were calculated using probit table and IC₅₀ of each sample were calculated, using probit value.

Results

Table 1 showed the percentage cytotoxicity of P. auriculata, P. indica and P. zeylanica plants ethanol extract (50, 100, 150, 200 and 250 µg/ml) was done in MTT assay using HGE-17 Cell lines. P. indica have higher cytotoxicity activity and dose dependant manner compare to P. zeylanica and P. auriculata. Concentration 250 µg/ml of P. indica and P. zeylanica has same percentage of cytotoxicity activity. Table 2 showed IC₅₀ value of three plants ethanol extract, values were calculated as percentage of cytotoxicity with probit table method. IC₅₀ value of P. indica have 178.29 µg/ml, it is lesser to other two plants P. zeylanica have 199.94 µg/ml and P. auriculata have 278.59 µg/ml.

Table 3 showed the effect of P. auriculata, P. indica and P. zeylanica ethanol extract inhibitory zone test against H. pylori organism. The agar diffusion method was used to study the anti- H. pylori activity of the plants ethanol extract. Among the three plants, P. auriculata extract had the lowest zone of inhibition against the H. pylori strains (1.17 cm), which was followed, in ascending order, by P. zeylanica and P. indica, (1.35 and 2.17 cm). Tukey’s multiple comparison test show that the P. indica shows high significance when compared to the solvent which is
having zone of inhibition of 0.47 cm; with a P<0.0001, F value of 284.9.

**Table 1: Cytotoxicity effect of *P. auriculata*, *P. indica* and *P. zeylanica* ethanol extract in MTT assay using HGE-17 Cell lines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration of extract (µg/ml)</th>
<th>% Cytotoxicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>P. indica</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>14.75 ± 0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>37.54 ± 1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>43.80 ± 0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>54.97 ± 0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>57.77 ± 0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are Mean ± SD of three separate experiments performed in triplicates for each concentration.

**Table 2: IC\textsubscript{50} value of *P. auriculata*, *P. indica* and *P. zeylanica* ethanol extract in MTT assay using HGE-17 Cell lines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extracts</th>
<th>IC\textsubscript{50} (µg/ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>P. indica</em></td>
<td>178.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. zeylanica</em></td>
<td>199.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. auriculata</em></td>
<td>278.59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3: Effect of *P. auriculata*, *P. indica* and *P. zeylanica* ethanol extract inhibitory zone test against *H. pylori* organism**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extracts</th>
<th>Zone of inhibition (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solvent (Ethanol)</td>
<td>0.47 ± 0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. indica</em> (10 mg)</td>
<td>2.17 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. zeylanica</em> (10 mg)</td>
<td>1.35 ± 0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. auriculata</em> (10 mg)</td>
<td>1.17 ± 0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The values are Mean ± SD of the zone of inhibition (cm) against *H. pylori* of three separate experiments performed in triplicates for each plant extract.

**Discussion**

Plumbagin at low doses gives stimulant action on nerves but at high doses it causes irritation to skin and is highly toxic, which leads to paralysis and ultimately death. Plumbagin is mainly allelopathic and contact irritant. Many reports reveal that the administration of Plumbagin is associated with severe acute toxicity. It is a highly toxic and acts like a spindle poison by inhibiting cell mitosis at low concentrations. At higher concentrations it exhibits radiomimetic, nucleotoxic (arrest of cell proliferation and decrease in mitotic index, with evidence of chromosomal aberrations) and cytotoxic effects. Our preliminary result of the estimation plumbagin concentration in non detoxified *P. indica* is higher than the other Plumbaginales. Unnikrishnan et al., reported that the purification of Plumbaginales using limewater, excess of Plumbagin oozes out into the lime water. Hence lime water treatment is adopted for the detoxification of Plumbago species.

The result that the non-cancerous cell line HGE-17 is not extensively inhibited by the detoxified plants ethanol extract indicates that the growth inhibitory effects of cell lines are not the result of a general toxicity of the plants. Different concentrations of three plants ethanol extract were tested for cytotoxic activity. Within 48 hours of test period – the time that the extract was in contact with the cells the effect on cell cycle may not have been so pronounced as with longer periods. IC\textsubscript{50} indicated that for the non-cancerous human cell line HGE-17, the growth was inhibited by detoxified ethanol extract of three Plumbaginales. This preliminary screening model helps to develop new antineoplastic agents. The present study reveals that Plumbaginales are having cytotoxic activity even in the absence of Plumbagin.

Inhibitory-zone testing is the primary method for evaluation of the susceptibility of the test samples against specific microorganisms. Three plants ethanol extract significantly inhibit growth of *H. pylori*, in descending order *P. indica*, *P. zeylanica* and *P. auriculata*, which offers advantages, i.e., greater convenience and reduced cost for the treatment of *H. pylori* infections in comparison to proton-pump inhibitors or H\textsubscript{2}-blockers treatments. With a high prevalence with antimicrobial resistance, herbal therapy has to be implemented for the termination of *H. pylori* attacks. It is clear that three Plumbaginale plants ethanol extract having measurable growth inhibitory effect in the cell proliferation and also in antibacterial activity, which will be a future prospect as antiulcer as well as anticancer activity.

**Conclusion**

Based in our results, the three detoxified *P. indica*, *P. zeylanica* and *P. auriculata* can be considered as a source of compounds with anti-*H. pylori* and cytotoxic activity. Further we research to isolate pure compounds from different extracts as well as establishing the toxicities of extracts of the Plumbago species, may offer medicinal uses for the indigenous population (at little cost) or offer a structure (of a pure compound) for pharmaceutical development. If extracts would be used on large scale for medicinal purposes, it is of utmost importance that cultivation and conservation of this plant accompany the use for medicinal purposes.

**Reference**

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