

ANALGESIC AND ANTIINFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY OF LEAF EXTRACTS OF *Commiphora caudata* IN RODENTS

Mohan CG ¹, Savinay Gokavi ², GL Viswanatha ^{3*}, Shylaja.H ⁴, K. Nandakumar ⁵

¹Department of Pharmacognosy, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Subbaiah Square Bangalore-27

²Department of Pharmaceutics, Govt. College of Pharmacy, Subbaiah Square Bangalore-27.

³Department of Pharmacology , PES College of Pharmacy ,Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-50.

⁴Department of Pharmacognosy , PES College of Pharmacy ,Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-50.

⁵Department of Pharmacology , Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences ,Manipal-.576 104

Summary

The present study was undertaken to evaluate the analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity of Alcoholic (70%) and Aqueous extracts of leaves of *Commiphora caudata* in rodents. The dried powder of the leaves was initially extracted with 70% Alcoholic (ALCC) and Water (AQCC) successively. Acute oral toxicity of ALCC and AQCC were conducted as per OECD guidelines 425. Acute toxicity studies revealed that both the extracts are safe upto 2000mg/kg. The extracts were evaluated for Analgesic activity with formalin induced paw licking test in mice using Pentazocin (2mg/kg,i.p.) as a standard and Anti-inflammatory activity was evaluated with carrageenan induced rat paw edema model in wistar rats using Diclofenac (15mg/kg,i.p) a standard. Acute toxicity results have revealed that both ALCC and AQCC were safe upto 2000 mg/kg dose. In formalin induced paw licking test ALCC at 100, 200 and 400mg/kg , AQCC at 200 and 400mg/kg have showed significant inhibition of paw licking in both early and late phase of the formalin test when compare to control group ; In carrageenan induced rat paw edema model ALCC at 200 and 400mg/kg , AQCC at 400mg/kg have showed significant inhibition in carrageenan induced rat paw when compare to control group, these observations suggests that ALCC and AQCC possess good analgesic and antiinflammatory activity but the Alcoholic is more potent when compare to Aqueous extract.

Keywords: *Commiphora caudata*, Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic, Carrageenan induced rat paw edema. , Formalin induced paw licking test.

Correspondance:

Mr.G.L.Viswanatha .M.Pharma

Scientist

Preclinical Pharmacology and Toxicology

Connexios Life sciences Pvt Ltd

J.P.Nagar , Bangalore

Email: glv_000@yahoo.com , vishwaster@gmail.com

Mobile: +919844492334

Introduction

Inflammation is a chronic disease, which involves (a) increase of vascular permeability resulting in exudation of fluid from blood into the interstitial space (b) infiltration of leucocytes from the blood into the tissues and (c) granuloma formation ^[1]. Currently drugs like opioid analgesics, corticosteroids, NSAID's and immunosuppressive agents are used to control the symptoms of inflammation and pain ^[2]. The use of these drugs will produce certain side effects like respiratory depression, sedation, constipation, tolerance, spasm, gastrointestinal disturbances, renal and hepatic damage, bone marrow depression, suppression of response to infection or injury, osteoporosis, development of Cushing's syndrome etc ^[2].

Natural products in general and medicinal plants in particular are believed to be an important source of new chemical substances with potential therapeutic efficacy. Taking into account that the most important analgesic prototypes (e.g. salicylic acid and morphine) were originally derived from the plant sources, the study of plant species traditionally used as pain killers should still be seen as a fruitful research strategy in the search of new analgesic and anti inflammatory drugs ^[3].

Commiphora caudata (Burseraceae) an ethno medicinal plant found in India and Srilanka, The various parts of *Commiphora caudata* namely Bark, Leaves has been used in the folk medicine for treating vata, pitta, diabetes, low back pain, sciatica, fever, arthritis and urinary retention ^{[4][5][6]}.

Materials and Methods

Drugs and chemicals

All the solvents used for the extraction process are of Laboratory grade. Pentazocin (Cadila, Genstar), Diclofenac (Novartis, NJ), Carrageenan (SD Fine chemicals. Mumbai), Formalin (SD Fine chemicals. Surat).

Plant extraction

The leaves of the plant was collected in the month of May – June 2008 and authenticated by Dr.K.P.Sreenath, Reader and Taxonomist, Botany Department from Bangalore University. A sample specimen was deposited, bearing voucher number **Coll.CC.no.I**. The shade dried plant material was powdered.

The coarse powder was subjected to extraction with alcohol (70%) in Soxhlet apparatus and marc obtained after the alcoholic extraction was macerated with water to obtain aqueous extract. The percentage yield of alcoholic and aqueous extract was found to be 18.66% and 12% respectively.

Experimental animals

Wistar albino rats of either sex weighing 150–200 gm and albino mice of either sex weighing 20–25 gm were used for anti-inflammatory and analgesic activities respectively. They were housed in standard environmental conditions and fed with standard rodent diet with water ad libitum. All animal procedures were followed in accordance with the approved protocol for use of experimental animals set by the Institutional Animal Ethical Committee. Six groups of six animals were used for each experiment.

Acute oral toxicity

Acute oral toxicity of alcoholic and aqueous extracts of leaves of *Commiphora caudata* was determined by using female, nulliparous and non pregnant mice weighing 18-22 g. The animals were fasted for 3 hrs prior to the experiment. Up and down procedure OECD guideline no. 425 was adopted for toxicity studies. Animals were administered with single dose of extract and observed for their mortality during 48 hours study period (short term) toxicity. LD₅₀ was calculated as per OECD guidelines 425 using AOT 425 software^[7].

Analgesic activity

Formalin induced paw licking test

100, 200 and 400 mg/kg of the AACC and AQCC were administered to mice by oral route and animals of the control group received only vehicle control (3% Tween 80). Pentazocin 2mg/kg, i.p was used as standard. Fifteen minutes later, the analgesic activity was determined using formalin test described by Dubuisson and Dennis^[8]. 50µl of 2.5% formalin was injected into the dorsal surface of the left hind paw. The mice were observed for 30 min after the injection of formalin, and the number of licks during the 30 mins observation period was recorded. The first 10 min post formalin injection is known as the early phase and the period between 15 and 30 min is known as the late phase^{[9][10][11]}.

Anti-inflammatory activity**Carrageenan-induced rat paw edema**

Animals were fasted for 24 h before the experiment with free access to water. Approximately 50 µl of a 1% suspension of carrageenan in saline was prepared 1h before each experiment and was injected into the plantar surface of right hind paw of the animal. 100, 200 and 400 mg/kg of the AACC and AQCC were administered to animals by oral route. Animals of the control group received vehicle control (3% Tween 80). Diclofenac (15mg/kg, i.p.) was used as a standard. Vehicle control, Extract and standard were administered to respective group of animals 1h before the carrageenan injection, Paw volume was measured immediately after carrageenan injection and at 1h, 2h, 3h and 4-h intervals after the administration of the noxious agent by using a plethysmometer (model 7159, Ugo Basile arese, Italy) ^{[11][12]}.

Statistical analysis

Values are expressed as mean ± SEM from 6 animals. Statistical differences in mean were analyzed using one way ANOVA (analysis of variance) followed by Dunnett's test. $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results**Acute toxicity**

Acute toxicity studies was conducted in albino mice according to OECD guidelines no.425 and it is found that both alcoholic and aqueous extracts were safe upto 2000 mg/kg.

Analgesic activity

In Formalin induced paw licking test the ALCC at 100, 200, 400 mg/kg and AQCC at 200 and 400 mg/kg have showed significant inhibition in number of lickings in both early phase (0-10 mins) and late phase (15-30 mins) of the test .The results are shown in **Table No.1**.

Table 1. Analgesic effect of leave extracts of *Commiphora caudata* on the Formalin induced paw licking test.

Treatment	Total time spent in licking(s)			
	0-10 min	% Inhibition	15-30 min	% Inhibition
Control	159.5±12.01	---	376.29±29.1	---
Pentazocin 2mg/kg	42.64±4.64***	73.26	198.56±15.33***	47.23
ALCC-100 mg/kg	114.6±15.2**	28.15	232.6±18.23**	38.18
ALCC-200 mg/kg	91.56±8.96***	42.59	172.9±14.78***	54.05
ALCC-400 mg/kg	68.34±8.29***	57.15	118.34±17.82***	68.55
AQCC- 100 mg/kg	134.9±9.06	15.42	297.5±16.82	20.93
AQCC-200 mg/kg	108.34±8.29**	32.07	215.7±17.14**	42.67
AQCC- 40 mg/kg 0	87.24±7.49***	45.30	143.24±12.21***	61.94

Values are mean+S.E.M; n=6; ** P< 0.01 and ***p<0.001 as compared to the control

Anti-inflammatory activity

In Carrageenan - induced paw edema test the ALCC at 200, 400 mg/kg and AQCC at 400 mg/kg have) showed significant reduction in paw volume (% Inhibition of paw edema) when compared to the control group receiving vehicle control (3% Tween 80). The results of anti-inflammatory activity of leave extracts of *Commiphora caudata* are given in **Table No. 2**.

Table 2. Anti-inflammatory effect of leave extracts of *Commiphora caudata* on Carrageenan - induced paw edema.

Treatment	Paw volume in ml (% Inhibition of Paw Edema)			
	1hr	2hr	3hr	4hr
Control	0.526±0.032	0.658±0.047	0.786±0.066	0.697±0.062
Diclofenac 15 mg/kg ,i.p	0.235±0.032*** (55.32)	0.2±0.028*** (69.60)	0.19±0.012*** (75.82)	0.089±0.024*** (86.08)
ALCC	0.426±0.025 (19.01)	0.523±0.02 (20.51)	0.623±0.012 (20.73)	0.554±0.02 (20.51)
ALCC	0.358±0.02** (31.93)	0.445±0.024** (32.37)	0.524±0.037*** (33.33)	0.445±0.024*** (36.15)
ALCC	0.234±0.032*** (55.51)	0.27±0.032*** (58.96)	0.317±0.02*** (59.66)	0.212±0.012*** (69.58)
AQCC	0.456±0.025 (13.30)	0.556±0.012 (15.50)	0.646±0.012 (17.81)	0.566±0.012 (18.79)
AQCC	0.388±0.024 (21.67)	0.478±0.025* (27.36)	0.558±0.012*** (29.00)	0.468±0.012*** (32.85)
AQCC	0.25±0.029*** (43.34)	0.367±0.024*** (44.22)	0.427±0.037*** (74.13)	0.167±0.031*** (76.04)

Values are mean±S.E.M; n=6; *p<0.05, ** P< 0.01 and ***p<0.001 as compared to the control.

Discussion

The formalin induced paw licking test is a valid and reliable model for analgesic activity and it is sensitive for various classes of analgesic drugs. Formalin test produces a distinct biphasic response and different analgesics may act differently in the early and late phases of this test. Therefore, the test can be used to clarify the possible mechanism of antinociceptive effect of a proposed analgesic drug ^[10]. Centrally acting drugs such as opioids inhibit both phases equally ^[11] but peripherally acting drugs such aspirin, indomethacin and dexamethasone only inhibit the late phase. The late phase seems to be an inflammatory response with inflammatory pain that can be inhibited by anti-inflammatory drugs ^[12]. The effect of topical preparation containing extract on the first and late phase of formalin induced paw licking test suggests that its activity may be because of its central action.

From these results, we can conclude that the Alcoholic (100, 200 and 400 mg/kg) and aqueous (200 and 400 mg/kg) extracts of *Commiphora caudata* possesses good analgesic effect; where as the anti-inflammatory studies have revealed that the Alcoholic extract (200 and 400 mg/kg) and aqueous (200 and 400 mg/kg) extracts of *Commiphora caudata* possess good anti-inflammatory activity.

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