Evaluation of Analgesic & Anti-inflammatory activity of Hydro-alcoholic Extract of *Desmostachya bipinnata* (L.) Stapf root on Experimental Animals

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**ABSTRACT**

*Desmostachia bipinnata* (L.) Stapf (Gramineae) occurs widely in Egypt. This plant used traditionally as analgesic, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, asthma, thirst, jaundice, vaginal discharges, vesicle calculi, diseases of bladder, skin eruptions, vomiting, and sedative to pregnant uterus. So, in the present study, *Desmostachia bipinnata* roots were explored for their anti-inflammatory (carrageenan induced paw oedema) and analgesic potential (Hot plate method) on experimental model and compared to standard drugs (Indomethacin for anti-inflammatory activity, Analgin for analgesic activity). In the carrageenan-induced rat paw edema test for acute inflammation, the extract of *Desmostachya bipinnata* in dose of 400 mg/kg body weight showed 62.5% inhibition of edema, at the end of 3h. Phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of tannins, saponins, alkaloids, sterols and flavonoids. The pharmacological activities of medicinal plants are usually due to their secondary metabolites. Some of the constituents of the extract have been documented to possess analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities. The results of this study provide evidence for the analgesic and anti-inflammatory activity of the hydro-alcoholic extract of *Desmostachya bipinnata* root thus supporting its traditional use in painful inflammatory conditions.

**Keywords:** Carrageenan, Analgesic, Anti-Inflammatory, *Desmostachya bipinnata*, Indomethacin.

**INTRODUCTION**

Analgesia is the inability to feel pain while still conscious. From the Greek an-, without + algesis, sense of pain. Salicylates are the class of compounds that are widely valued for their analgesic, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory properties. The most commonly known and used salicylates are salicylic acid (also called 2-hydroxybenzoic acid), aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid -ASA) and sodium salicylates. They are used extensively for the relief of headache, inflammation, arthritis pain, and some are employed in the treatment of heart attacks and strokes in the elderly. Their mode of action is the inhibition of the synthesis of prostaglandin and its derivatives that cause inflammation, pain, rise in temperature and related diseases.

Despite the progress made in medical research during the past decades, the treatment of many serious diseases is still problematic. Chronic inflammatory diseases remain one of the world’s major health problems. Inflammation is the response of living tissues to injury. It involves a complex array of enzyme activation, mediator release, extravasations of fluid, cell migration, tissue breakdown and repair. Inflammation has become the focus of global scientific research because of its implication in virtually all human and animal diseases. The conventional drugs used to ameliorate this phenomenon are either too expensive, side effects or toxic and not commonly available to the rural folks that constitute the major populace of the world. Therefore, development of newer and more powerful anti-inflammatory drugs with lesser side effects is necessary. This study therefore seeks to examine *Desmostachya bipinnata* Stapf for anti-inflammatory activity and analgesic effects since pain is one of the cardinal signs of inflammation. *Desmostachya bipinnata* is an erect, tall, branched from the base perennial herb 30-90 cm height found in forest undergrowth, sandy areas almost throughout India. The plant used traditionally as analgesic, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, asthma, thirst, jaundice, vaginal discharges, vesicle calculi, diseases of bladder, skin eruptions, vomiting, and sedative to pregnant uterus.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of plant material
The roots of D. bipinnata were collected from wild sources surrounding Lucknow, U.P., India and authenticated by Dr. Tariq Hussain, scientist Head of department herbarium, N. B. R. I., Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, Voucher no. 96520.

Preparation of plant material
250 g of air dried powder was extracted with water: ethanol (50:50) by cold maceration in a specified strength in a closed flask for twenty-four hours, shaking frequently during six hours and allowing standing for eighteen hours. The extract was filtered, concentrated under reduced temperature using rotary evaporator and dried extract was subjected for phytochemical and biological activity on experimental animal model.

Animal selection
Healthy adult Wister albino rats were used for all the experimental study of various parameters of inflammatory activity and Analgesic activity. The body weight of these animals varied from 160 to 190 g and the age from 4-6 months. Male or female rats were selected to anti-Inflammatory, Analgesic activity. Animals were housed individually with free access to food and water under standard condition and the basal food intake, body weights to the nearest gram were noted. The animals were starved 18 h prior to starting biological activity.

Experimental procedures

Phytochemical screening
The hydro-alcoholic extract of the root of D. bipinnata was evaluated for the presence of flavonoids, tannins, alkaloids, saponins, glycosides and sterols/triterpenes. [13]

Drugs and chemicals
Analgin, Indomethacin (standard drugs), Carrageenan, and Tween 80.

Biological activity

Anti-inflammatory activity
Carrageenan-induced paw oedema
Healthy albino rats of the either sex (160-190 g) were divided into 5 groups of 6 animals each. They were fasted for 18 h prior to the test, with free access to water. Group I received the vehicle (0.1 ml of 2% Tween 80, orally) and served as the control group. The groups II, rats were administered with standard drug Analgin at dose 150 mg/kg body weight, Group III, IV, V and VI were treated with, hydro-alcoholic extract (200, 300 mg & 400 mg/kg), respectively. All drugs/vehicle were administered orally (p. o.). The reaction time was noted at 30, 60, 90, 120, & 180 min. of the interval of the drug administration. Percent protection against paw licking was calculated using the following formula,

\[
\% \text{ inhibition} = \left( \frac{V_t - V_c}{V_t} \right) \times 100
\]

Wt & Wc are the mean value of the test & control groups, respectively. [16] The data were analyzed by student; t-test & the level of the significance was set at p<.001.

Table 1: Schedule for screening of hydro-alcoholic extracts for anti-inflammatory activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Dose (p.o)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>0.1ml/kg b.w. 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>5 mg/kg. b.w. of Indomethacin in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test extract-1</td>
<td>200mg/kg.b.w.in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test extract-2</td>
<td>300mg/kg.b.w.in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test extract-3</td>
<td>400mg/kg.b.w.in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Schedule for screening of hydro-alcoholic extracts for analgesic activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Groups</th>
<th>Dose (p.o)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>0.1ml/kg b.w. 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>150 mg/kg. b.w. of Analgin in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test extract-1</td>
<td>200 mg/kg.b.w.in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test extract-2</td>
<td>300mg/kg.b.w.in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test extract-3</td>
<td>400mg/kg.b.w.in 2% Tween80 Saline.</td>
</tr>
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Statistical analysis
The data were expressed as mean ± SD. Where applicable the difference in response to test drugs was determined by student’s t-test. P<0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects of standard drug and hydro-alcoholic extracts of D. bipinnata roots are shown in Tables 3 and 4 respectively. In the carrageenan-induced rat paw edema test (Table 3) for acute inflammation, the extract of D. bipinnata in doses of 200 mg, 300 mg and 400 mg/kg body weight showed 46%, 33.3% and 62.5% inhibition of edema, respectively, at the end of 3h.

The carrageenan-induced rat paw edema is a biphasic process. [17] The release of histamine or serotonin occurs in the first phase and the second phase is associated with the production of bradykinin, protease, prostaglandin, and lysosome. [18] Therefore, the inhibition of carrageenan-induced inflammation by the hydro-alcoholic extract of D. bipinnata root could be due to the inhibition of the enzyme cyclooxygenase and subsequent inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis.

Phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of tannins, saponins, alkaloids, sterols and flavonoids. The pharmacological activities of medicinal plants are usually due to their secondary metabolites. Some of the constituents of the extract have been documented to possess analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities. [19-20] Volatile oils, resin, flavonoids and terpenoids isolated from...
plant extracts are known to produce analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects.\[^{21}\]

Tannins are important compounds known to be potent inflammatory effects.\[^{22, 23}\] The mechanisms of anti-inflammatory activity may be related to the anti-phlogistic action of the tannins. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) such as indomethacin in this study are known to inhibit cyclooxygenase enzymes I and II which are implicated in the production of inflammation-mediating agent prostaglandin E\(_2\) (PGE\(_2\)) from arachidonic acid.\[^{24-26}\] The pattern of anti-inflammatory and analgesic activities exhibited by this extract was similar to that of indomethacin which suggests that the plant’s activity may be mediated by cyclooxygenase I and II inhibition. The anti-inflammatory effect of the extract and the reference drug increased with time.

The analgesic effect of the extract (300 mg/kg) was comparable to that produced by 150 mg/kg of analgin (Table 4).

The present study on hydro-alcoholic extract of *Desmostachya bipinnata* (L.) Stapf root has demonstrated that this plant has comparable analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties, and it justifies the traditional use of this plant in the treatment of various types of pains and inflammation. It is also suggested that the mechanism of action of *Desmostachya bipinnata* might be associated with the inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis, as observed for most non-steroidal drugs.

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