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# ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY OF METHANOLIC EXTRACT OF LEAVES OF LEUCAS ZEYLANICA LINN. USING ISOLATED FROG HEART

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# ABSTRACT

**Objective:** The present study was aimed to evaluate the antioxidant activity of methanolic extract of the leaves of Leucas zeylanica Linn. using isolated frog heart as a model.

**Methods:** About 1 mM of hydrogen peroxide  $(H_2O_2)$  solution in frog Ringer solution was used to induce oxidative stress on isolated frog heart. When Ringer solution containing  $H_2O_2$  perfused to frog heart preparation, which indicating the induction of oxidative stress on frog heart, this might be due to desensitization of receptors. Cardiac output, heart rate, and cardiac arrest parameters were estimated.

**Results:** The present study results supports that the frog heart model for induction of oxidative stress by  $H_2O_2$ . It shows negative inotropic and chronotropic effects and the cardiac arrest was produced at  $20^{\text{th}}$  min. In the presence of a methanolic extract of the leaves of *L. zeylanica*, the cardiac arrest was observed at  $38^{\text{th}}$  min, i.e., heart was protected longer period that indicates antioxidant activity which was compared with the standard ascorbic acid.

**Conclusion:** The results obtained in this work showed that methanolic extract of the leaves of *L. zeylanica* exhibits antioxidant activity against  $H_2O_2$ -induced oxidative stress on isolated frog heart model and compared with a standard antioxidant agent (ascorbic acid).

Keywords: Frog heart, Antioxidant activity, Leucas zeylanica, Methanolic extract, Oxidative stress.

# INTRODUCTION

Oxidative stress is essentially an imbalance between the production of free radicals and the ability of the body to counteract or detoxify their harmful effects through neutralization by antioxidants. Free radicals are the unstable molecules that react with other substances to damage cells, tissue, or organ which is caused by the reactive oxygen species (ROS) [13]. ROS are highly reactive substances, oxygen-containing molecules, including free radicals. Types of ROS include the hydroxyl radical, superoxide anion radical, hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), singlet oxygen, nitric oxide radical, hypochlorite radical, and various lipid peroxides. The free radicals have capable of reacting with membrane nucleic acids, lipids, proteins, enzymes, and other small molecules [10]. Antioxidants were synthesized within the body or taken in the diet which acts as a natural defense against free radical-induced damage [13]. The oxidative stress in animals or cell cultures has been successfully induced by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and was chosen for the induction of oxidative stress on isolated frog heart [17].

Herbs and plants play an important role in maintaining human health. Leucas zeylanica belongs to the family Lamiaceae commonly called as Ceylon slitwort [9]. Synonyms are Leucas bancana, Phlomis zeylanica Linn., and Spermacoce denticulate. In Telugu, it is commonly known as Thummi [7,8]. It is a small, earthy, non-woody, annual erect plant or sometimes tufted, hispid, and aromatic plant growing to a height of up to 120 cm, stipules absent. Stem is green in color. Leaves are oval in shape and green in color, which occur opposite sides of stems and large in number. These are subsessile leaves which are liner lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate which is 2.5-7.5 cm long. Roots are mainly taproot and fibrous. In India, leaves and flowers were used for fever, scorpion, snakebites, and jaundice. In Sri Lanka, mostly used as a vermifuge ingredient and also used for anorexia, flatulence, colic pain, malaria, mild fevers associated with indigestion, and intestinal worms infection [5,6]. The phytochemical evaluation of the methanolic extract of the leaves of L. zeylanica revealed the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, tannins, carbohydrates, saponins, and phenols [3]. Flavonoids and phenols are strong antioxidants and have an important role in the healthcare system [2]. Hence, there were no reports available for the antioxidant activity of methanolic extract of the leaves of *L. zeylanica* using frog heart model.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Plant collection and authentication

The fresh leaves of *L. zeylanica* were collected from local areas of the Karimnagar district, Telangana, India. The plant was identified and authenticated by BSI/DRC/16-17/Tech.05. The leaves were dried in shade and powdered, passed through sieve no.40. Finally, fine coarse powdered was obtained and stored in air-tight container.

# **Preparation of extract**

Methanolic extract of the leaves of *L. zeylanica* was prepared by soxhlation method at suitable temperature. 50 g of powdered leaves were prepared as a thimble and placed in the condenser and in the round-bottomed flask required amount of methanol was taken. Soxhlation process was carried out for 6–8 h. The extract obtained was evaporated and dried in desiccator [15].

#### Materials

Acetyl choline chloride was purchased from Burgoyne Laboratories, Mumbai. Nacl, Kcl, Cacl<sub>2</sub>, dextrose, and NaHCo3 were purchased from Finar Chemicals, Ahmedabad. Ascorbic acid and  $H_2O_2$  were purchased from Hi-Media, Laboratories Ltd., Mumbai, India. Kymograph paper, Starling's heart lever, and Sherrington Rotating Drum were purchased from Inco, Ambala, India.

#### **Physiological solution**

The composition of frog Ringer's solution is Nacl - 6 g, Kcl - 0.14 g, Cacl2 - 0.12 g, NaHco3 - 0.2 g, and glucose - 2 g made with 1000 ml distilled water [11].

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