Pharmacological Screening of Anti Lice and Antidandruff Activity of Ethanolic Extract of Leaves of Datura metel

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ABSTRACT
It should be noticed that there is no drugs is available to treat lice and dandruff both are very great public health concern. It is necessary to screen a drug especially of herbal origin to treat the both head lice and dandruff without affecting eyes. In the present study, Datura metel leaf extracts was evaluated for their insecticidal properties using head lice as an insect model. The study was conducted from November 2019 to March 2020. Plant sample (leaf) of Datura metel was collected from anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, India in November 2019. The various concentration of ethanolic extract of leaves of Datura metel was prepared by using distilled water. 20%, 40%, 60% were used. A colony of P. humanus capitis was collected by combing the hair of 20-25 infected children at the age group of 10-15. Head lice were reared in the glass vessels covered with nylon mesh containing tufts of hairs. The hair tufts was impregnated with appropriate doses for the screening. Pure culture of M. furfur (MTCC: 1374) was obtained from institute of Microbial type of culture collection, Chandigarh, India. The culture was maintained in SDA medium. The current study afford scientific basis for the ethnomedical use of this plant as antilice application. It is concluded that it can be optimistic that the present work proved Datura metel of dual therapeutic advantage to be a potential phytochemical target in the design of a drug for the treatment of both lice and dandruff.

Key words: Anti dandruff, Anti lice, Datura metel, Ethnomedical use, Pharmacological Screening

INTRODUCTION
Nearly 50% drugs used in medicine are of plant origin.¹ It is desirable to have a "need based" approach to research on medicinal plants including screening of plants for biological activity. Research interest for many infections & infestations are not much focused by researcher. One among those conditions is for head lice infestation and the fungal infection dandruff etc. Lice Infestation are common, found worldwide and affect between 6 to 20 Million people every year it is very common and mainly affect children 3 & 12 years.² The treatment of head lice is now complicated by the emergence of resistance to pediculicides.³ The management of human head lice worldwide depends primarily on the continued applications of carbamate, pyrethrin, pyrethroid, organochlorine, organophosphorous, and avermectin, insecticides. Their repeated use has often resulted in the development of resistance and increasing levels of resistance to the most commonly used pediculicides have caused multiple and excessive treatments, fostering serious human health concerns. These problems have highlighted the need for the development of selective p.humanus capitis control alternatives.⁴

Dandruff is a major cosmetic problem that posseses very great public health concern both in developed and developing countries. Pityrosporum ovale, a yeast like lipophilic basidiomycetous fungus is considered to be the chief cause of the problem. Presently accessible treatment options for the management of dandruff include therapeutic use of zinc pyrithione, salicylic acid imidazole derivatives, glycolic acid.⁵ However, these agents have certain limitations either due to poor clinical efficacy or due to compliance issues. Furthermore these drugs are unable to prevent recurrence which is the commonest problem. It should be noticed that there is no drugs is available to treat lice and dandruff both are very great public health concern.⁶ Moreover the drugs used may affects the eyes during their application. So, it is necessary to screen a drug especially of herbal origin to treat the both head lice and dandruff without affecting eyes. As per available literature, Annona squamosa, Datura metel have been reported to have insecticidal properties and their efficacy has been reported against different insect models.⁷ In the present study, Datura metel leaf extracts was evaluated for their insecticidal properties using head lice as an insect model.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Plant extracts
The study was conducted from November 2019 to March 2020. Plant sample (leaf) of Datura metel was collected from anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, India in November 2019. Herbaria of these plants were authenticated from Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur and...
authentication numbers of the herbaria for *Datura metel* Linn. Auth08-72 respectively. Collected plant were washed, shade dried, powdered, sieved through an 85-mesh (BSS) sieve and stored in an airtight container at 25 ± 5°C to prevent the growth of microorganisms. Plant powders prepared thus, were used for efficacy studies.

**Continuous hot extraction**

The various concentration of ethanolic extract of leaves of *Datura metel* was prepared by using distilled water. 20%, 40%, 60% were used.

**Head lice**

A colony of *P. humanus capitis* was collected by combing the hair of 20-25 infected children at the age group of 10-15. Head lice were reared in the glass vessels covered with nylon mesh containing tufts of hairs.

**Feeding of head lice**

To feed head lice with blood meals they were kept on the lower leg of the human beings and maintain there for 30 minutes. Microscopy examination of the mid- gut confirmed blood ingestion.

**Bio assay**

The hair tufts was impregnated with appropriate doses for the screening. Control hair tufts receiving the vehicle were also maintained, marketed sample were used as a standard. 20% adult *P. humanus capitis* given a human blood meal before the bioassay were placed on each vessel containing few strands of human hair and it was covered with the nylon mesh. Treated and control and standard were held at 37oc in darkness. Each concentration was maintained at triplicate and number of mortality was recorded for every 30 minutes. Death was defined as lack of movement of limbs and guts and failure to respond when the legs were stroked with forceps and the results were tabulated.

Since the isolated fraction were less quantity, if was not possible to carry out the experiment in triplicate. So the percentage mortality after 60 min and 90 minutes were tabulated.

**Method**

Disc diffusion method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Lice released</th>
<th>Text Drug</th>
<th>Conc. g/10mls</th>
<th>Mean± SEM % mortality 60 min</th>
<th>Mean± SEM % mortality 90 min</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>Aqueous paste</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.333 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>EEDC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>23.333 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>EEDC + Coconut Oil</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>23.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>43.333 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>EEDC + gingelly oil</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>16.666 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>EEDC + Castor oil</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>45.000 ± 2.887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>EEDC + Castor oil</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>61.666 ± 2.887</td>
<td>98.333 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>23.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>47.61 ± 1.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>41.666 ± 3.333</td>
<td>65.32 ± 2.112</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>18.333 ± 1.667</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>68.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>98.333 ± 1.667</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>21.666 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>23.333 ± 1.667</td>
<td>53.333 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>EEDC + Castor oil</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>65.24 ± 1.667</td>
<td>98.333 ± 1.667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>Standard marketed sample</td>
<td>10ml</td>
<td>98.666 ± 0.5774</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Organism used**

*Malassezia furfur* (MTCC:1374)

**Preparation of the medium**

2gm of SDA medium and 1gm of Agar was dissolved in 50ml of distilled water heat to boiling to dissolve the medium completely, sterilize by autoclaving at 15lbs pressure (121oC for 15 mts pH is adjusted to (5.6 ± 2oC). The medium was poured into the sterile petridishes to get a thickness of 5-6mm. The medium was allowed to solidify and petridish was inverted and were dried at 37oc just before inoculation.

**Inoculum preparation**

The peptone was added to the liquid SDM in the concentration of 5,10,15 and 20g/lr. Pure culture of *M. furfur* grown in liquid medium was inoculated and incubated at 30 ± 2oC for 7 days.

**Collection and maintenance of the culture**

Pure culture of *M.furfur* (MTCC: 1374) was obtained from institute of Microbial type of culture collection, Chandigarh, India. The culture was maintained in SDA medium.

**Antimycotic assay (Disc – diffusion method)**

The broth culture of *M.furfur* was swabbed over the sabouraud dextrose agar by using sterile cotton buds. Sterile 5mm diameter whatman No. 32 filter paper discs were dipped in plant extracts and clotrimazole (Standard drug10 µg/disc) and control DMSO disc were placed equidistantly (3cm apart) round the margin of the plates. Three replicates were maintained. The plates were incubated at 30 ± 2oC and zone inhibition was observed after 3 days. The results were tabulated here.

This research covers the works on invitro antilice and anti dandruff screening of *Datura metee*, in an attempt to rationalize its use as single drug of therapeutic importance with dual benefit.

**DISCUSSION**

Though all of the pediculicidal agents act efficiently against *Phumanus capities*, some of them are neuro toxic. Moreover, the continued use
of these products induces resistance. Non toxic alternative options are hence needed for head lice treatments which prompted us this study invitro anti lice activities of and aqeous paste, ethanolic extract and along with the fixed oil as carrier and isolated fractions of leaves of Datura metel were studied. It was observed that after 90 minutes in the percentage mortality observed for the concentration 2,4,6 g/10ml were 3.33 ± 1.667 23.33 ± 43.33 ± 1.66, 16.66 ± 1.66, 45 ± 2.88, 98.33 ± 1.66 for aqueous paste, EEDC respectively. For EEDC + Coconut oil mortality was significant in an 60 minutes which was 98.33 ± 1.66. All the readings are mean ± SEM for triplicate values. From the above it is clear that the decrease in percentage of mortality is in the following order after 60 minutes. EEDC + coconut oil > EEDC + gingelly oil > EEDC + castor oil >EEDC > aqeous paste, at the concentration of 6 gms/10ml which is comparable to the standard. The ethanolic extract of leaves of Datura metel mixed in coconut oil as carrier possesses significant antilice activity. (p<0.05) Since the isolated fraction were in less quantity, it was not possible to carry out the experiment in duplicate. It was observed that the decrease in mortality in the biologically active isolated fractions where as follows at 5% concentration. F-9 >F-15:F-8:F-4 showed moderate activity and it can be assumed that no single fraction has shown significant mortality. So this study revealed that the combination of phytoconstituents present in the ethanolic extract of leaves of Datura metel possess combined anti lice activity than the isolated fractions. Previously it was reported that, the n-hexane and chloroform extracts of aerial part of Datura metel showed antifungal activity against Aspergillus niger and Mucor species at 10mg/ml concentration but the chloroform extract showed activity only at higher concentration. This study and the ethnomedical use prompted us to carry out the Antidandruff screening study. The antidandruff activity of ethanolic extract of Datura metel against Malassezia furfur was studied by disc diffusion method, in SDA medium the zone of inhibition was measured. It was observed that the zone of inhibition was moderate when compared to the standard drug (clotrimazole) and Zone of inhibition was slightly concentration dependent & not significant and having moderate inhibition. There was mild increase of inhibition by increasing concentration above 500mg/ml. The diameter of the zone of inhibition is influenced by a variety of factors such as diffusibility of the drug, disc concentration, the nature and composition of the medium, its thickness, presence of inhibitory or stimulatory substances, pH of the medium and the time of incubation. During incubation, the therapeutic agent diffuses out from the disc in all directions. Agents with lower molecular weights diffuse faster than agents with higher molecular weight might be a powerful inhibitor even though it may diffuse only a small area of inhibition. Moreover, results obtained in vitro often differ from those obtained in vivo. Metabolic processes in the body of a living organism may inactivate or inhibit on antimicrobial compound. The anti lice activity against Pediculus humanus capitis (head lice) after 90 minutes, of the ethanolic extract of leaves of Datura metel in the concentration of 6gms/10ml was studied. The mortality is concentration dependent application. Application of aqueous paste not possesses significant antilice activity. Isolated fractions were tested showed that the activity may be synergistic by the presence of various Phytoconstituents. We were also able to demonstrate invitro moderate anti dandruff activity of the ethanolic extract leaves of Datura metel against M.furfur.

**CONCLUSION**

The current study provide scientific basis for the ethnomedical use of this plant as antillice application. It is concluded that it can be optimistic that the present work proved Datura metel of dual therapeutic advantage to be a potential phytochemical target in the design of a drug for the treatment of both lice and dandruff without causing any adverse influences on eyes, to alleviate the suffering the affected individuals. The above study require further investigation for the exact mechanism of action, to develop safe herbal formulation which can result in complementary to those existing pediculocidal agent, which are though acts efficiently they are neurotoxic and induced resistance. So, this provides nontoxic alternative options for both head lice and dandruff activities.

**REFERENCES**


**GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT**

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