

Hypolipidemic activity of *Lannea coromandelica* Houtt. leaves in Triton X-100 induced hyperlipidemic rats

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Abstract

Lannea coromandelica Houtt have multiple pharmacological activities including anti-inflammatory, aphrodisiac hypotensive, anti microbial, ulcerative stomatitis, wound healing, leprosy, gout, elephantiasis and cholera. Therefore, the present study is taken up to evaluate the hypolipidemic activity of ethanolic leaf extract of *L.coromandelica*. The ethanolic leaf extract was evaluated for its acute toxicity (2000mg/kg) and for hypolipidemic activity (100 and 200 mg/kg) in Triton X-100 (100mg/kg, *i.p*) induced model for 7 days. However, the obtained statistical data indicated a significant decrease in the total cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL cholesterol, VLDL cholesterol and increase in the HDL cholesterol, with reference to the standard drug Atorvastatin (10mg/kg,*p.o*). These results revealed that *L. coromandelica* has beneficial effect in reducing the blood lipid levels indicating its efficient hypolipidemic activity.

Keywords: *Lannea coromandelica*, Atorvastatin, Triton-X, Hyperlipidemia.

Introduction

Hyperlipidemia is well known for its contribution in the prevalence of coronary heart disorders.¹ Hyperlipidemia is characterized by the increase in the serum low density lipoprotein, very low density lipoprotein, total cholesterol and decrease in the high density lipoprotein levels.² Hence, it is the major risk factor for the premature development of cardiovascular complications and atherosclerosis.³ The undesirable side effects have made scientists look towards plant based hypolipidemic agents.⁴ Plants play a major role in the discovery of new therapeutic agents and are considered reliable sources of biologically active substances including antioxidants, hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic agents.⁵ The principle components of *Lannea Coromandelica* includes flavonoids, flavonols, sterols, gums and mucilage.⁶ Several flavonoid containing plants serve as a hidden wealth⁷ in the treatment of hyperlipidemia⁸ and diabetes mellitus.⁹ Therefore, the present study was designed to evaluate the antihyperlipidemic activity of ethanolic leaf extract of *L. coromandelica* in Triton x-100 induced hyperlipidemic rats.

Preparation of Drug Solution: The standard drug Atorvastatin and ethanolic leaf extract of *L.coromandelica* were dissolved in 0.9% Sodium chloride in water.¹⁰ The prepared solutions were administered orally to the wistar rats with the help of an intragastric catheter.¹¹

Experimental Animals: All the protocols and experiments used in the present study were approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC).¹² Healthy, adult male Wistar rats (180-250g) were divided into 5 groups of 6 animals per cage.¹² All the rats were maintained under standardized laboratory conditions and provided free access to the balanced pellet diet throughout the experimental period.¹²

Acute Oral Toxicity Study: Healthy male wistar rats (180-250g) were divided into 6 groups (n=6). Group I-V animals were orally fed with graded doses of ethanolic leaf extracts

of *L.coromandelica* in increasing dose levels of 100, 200, 400, 800 and 2000 mg/kg body wt./rats/day, while group VI (untreated) served as control.¹³ All the treated rats were kept under continuous observation for the first 2h for any gross changes and symptoms including behavioral, neurologic and autonomic profiles or any other symptoms of toxicity and mortality if any, for the next 6h and then again at 24h, 48h and 72h for any lethality or death.¹⁴

Experimental Induction of Hypolipidemia in Rats: Induction of hyperlipidemia was carried out by single intraperitoneal injection of freshly prepared solution of Triton X-100 (100mg/kg) dissolved in physiological saline.¹⁵ All the animals should be kept for overnight fasting for 18 hours before the treatment. The animals were allowed to be maintained at room temperature in plastic cages.¹⁵

Study Design

The rats were grouped into five with six rats in each group.¹²

Group I: Rats were given normal saline of 0.9% w/v *p.o.* and served as normal control.

Group II: Rats were given Triton X-100 (100mg/kg, *i. p.*)

Group III: Rats were given Triton X-100 (100mg/kg, *i. p.*) and *L. coromandelica* leaf extract (100mg/kg, *p.o.*)

Group IV: Rats were given Triton X-100 (100mg/kg, *i. p.*) and *L. coromandelica* extract (200mg/kg, *p.o.*)

Group V: Rats were given Triton-X 100 (100mg/kg, *i.p*) and Atorvastatin (10 mg/kg, *p.o.*)

On the 8th day of treatment, all the blood samples were collected under mild ether anesthesia by retro-orbital sinus puncture method, in the heparinized tubes.¹² All the collected blood samples were centrifuged for 5 minutes at 3000rpm and were stored at 4°C. Further, all the samples were analysed for serum Triglycerides (TG), Total Cholesterol (TC), High Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (HDL-C), Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (LDL-C), Very Low

Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (VLDL-C), and Atherogenic Index (AI).¹²

Biochemical Analysis: Plasma lipid levels include TC, TG and HDL-C were carried out using commercial kits from Qualigens diagnostics, Mumbai, India and LDL-C in plasma was calculated as per Friedewald estimation,¹⁶ $LDL-C = TC - HDL - TG/5$.

Statistical Analysis

All the obtained results were expressed as mean \pm standard error.¹⁷ The obtained data was analyzed by One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Dunnett's multiple comparison tests.¹⁷ However, differences between the data were considered significant at $P < 0.05$.¹⁷

Results

Effect of LC Leaf Extract on Acute Toxicity Study: No behavioural changes were observed.¹⁰ No toxicity or death at the given dose levels was observed. The LD_{50} of the ethanolic leaf extract of *L.coromandelica* was found to be more than 2000 mg/kg.¹¹ Whereas as per Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) guidelines-423 it is 2000 mg/kg.¹¹ So it was proved that the extracts were not having any toxic effects. Hence, on the basis of these above observations, the biological doses were fixed as 100 and 200mg/kg body weight for ethanolic extracts for further treatments.^{10,11} No mortality was found at the maximum tested dose level of 2000mg/kg.¹¹ Acute toxicity study indicated the non-toxic nature of the ethanolic leaf extract of *L.coromandelica*.

Antihyperlipidemic Activity

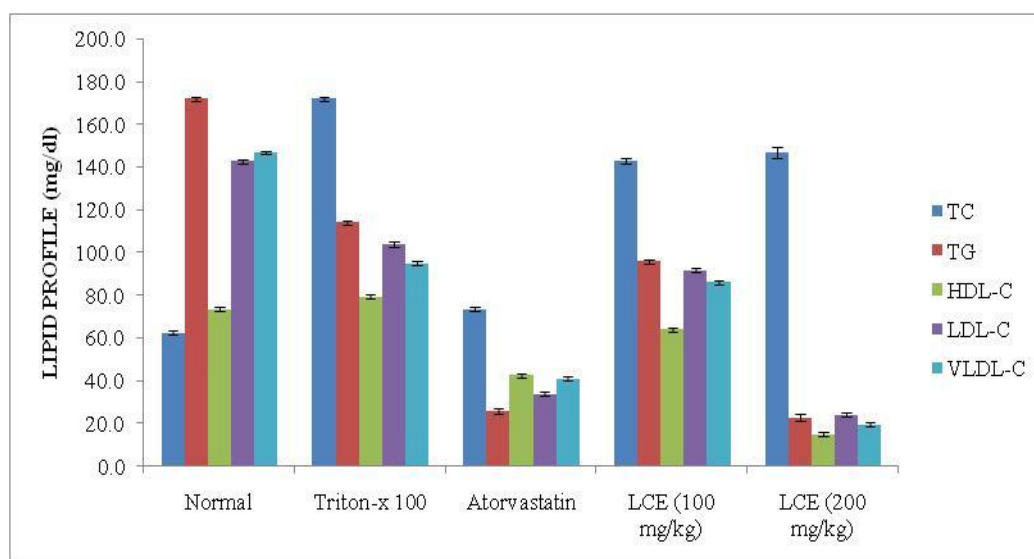


Fig. 1: Effect of LC leaf extract on serum TC, TG, HDL-C, LDL-C, VLDL-C levels in Triton X-100 induced hyperlipidemic rats on 7th day (mean \pm SEM)

In Fig. 1, Triton X-100 induced hyperlipidemic rats showed a significant increase in serum contents of TG, TC, LDL-C, and VLDL-C and decrease in the HDL-cholesterol.¹⁸ Whereas, in rats treated with ethanolic extract of *L. coromandelica* (LCE) (100mg/kg and 200mg/kg) there was a significant decrease in the TG, TC, LDL-C, and VLDL-C and increase in the HDL-C, when compared with

control group of rats.¹⁸ The change of Atherogenic Index in control and treated rats was shown in Fig. 2. It shows that the cholesterol induction significantly affects the cardiovascular risk markers.¹⁹ Whereas, AI was statistically increased in control group 75% compared with the values found in their normal control group.

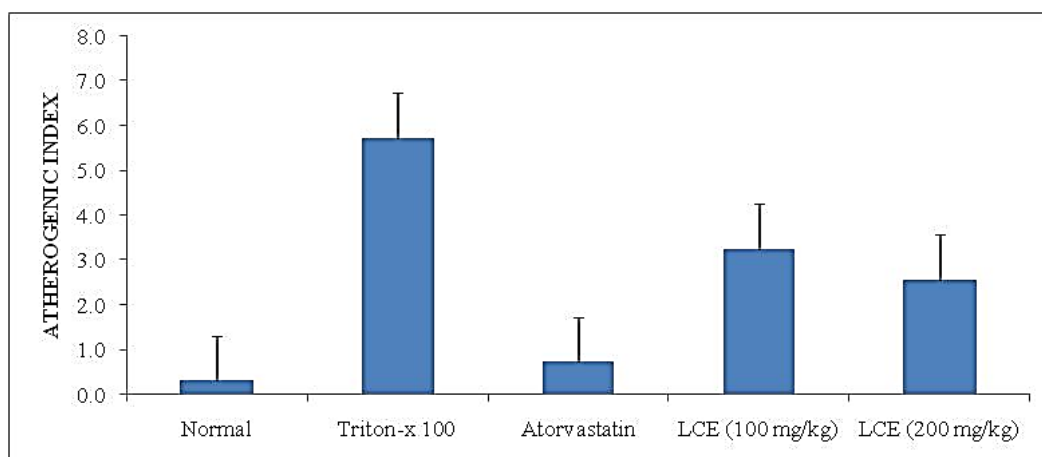


Fig. 2: Atherogenic index

Discussion

During the pilot study, the ethanolic leaf extract of *L.coromandelica* produced significant antihyperglycemic activity at a doses of 100 and 200 mg/kg b.w in diabetic treated rats.²⁰ The present study was performed to assess the hypolipidemic activity and to prove its claim in diabetes related complications.²¹ However, Insulin deficiency leads to various metabolic alterations including increased blood glucose level, increased levels of cholesterol and triglycerides.²² All the obtained results indicated that the ethanolic leaf extract of *L.coromandelica* showed a significant decrease in the serum TC, TG, LDL-C, VLDL-C levels and increase in the HDL-C levels in Triton X-100 induced hyperlipidemic rats at a dose of 200 mg/kg b.wt.²² It is suggested that the hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic properties of *L.coromandelica* leaf extract could be mainly due to the presence of its major components including flavonoids like quercetin, isoquercetin and kaempferol; flavonols like leucocyanidine, physicion and leucodelphidin.²³ However, further studies are required to prove hypolipidemic action of *L.coromandelica*.

Conclusion

In accordance with these results, it may be confirmed that the hypolipidemic activity of *L. coromandelica* is due to the presence of various phytochemical constituents including flavonoids, glycosides and alkaloids.²³ In conclusion, it can be said the ethanolic leaf extract of *L. coromandelica* exhibited a significant hypolipidemic effect at the dose of 200 mg/kg body weight. Further studies are required to establish the efficacy of *L. coromandelica* as a hypolipidemic drug.

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