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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Antidiabetic potential of *Withania coagulans* Dunal Flower in Streptozotacin Induced Diabetic Rats

M.D. Kitukale*, A.V. Chandewar

P. Wadhwani college of pharmacy, Dhamangaon road, Yavatmal-445001, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The present study was designed to evaluate the anti-diabetic potential of flower of *Withania coagulans* Dunal. The dried flowers were extracted successively by methanol and water. These extract then subjected for phytochemical screening. Animals were divided in seven groups and treated with high dose (400 mg/kg) and low dose (200 mg/kg) of methanolic and aqueous extract and compared with diabetic control group. Results of diabetic study indicates that administration of methanolic and aqueous extract of *Withania coagulans* Dunal daily for 28 days showed significant decrease in the blood glucose of the STZ induced diabetic rats compared to the diabetic control rats. The findings of this research suggest that the methanolic and aqueous extract of *Withania coagulans* Dunal flower may contains bioactive constituents with anti-diabetic potential which can be used for the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

Key words: *Withania coagulans*, Diabetes, antidiabetic agents, herbal medicine

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes is a rapidly increasing prevalence, characterized by hyperglycemia, glycosuria, polyuria, polydepsia, polyphasia, etc resulting in the profound socioeconomic effects in both developed and under developed countries. Furthermore, there is an increase prevalence of complications of diabetes, particularly nephropathy, retinopathy and neuropathy and associated cardiovascular diseases are placing enormous demands on healthcare budgets. **(**Savage D and Maxwell P, 2009; Ray J.A *et.al*., 2005**).**

Diabetes mellitus is the commonest endocrine disorder that affects more than 100 million people worldwide, In India prevalence rate of diabetes is estimated to be 1- 5% Historical accounts reveal that as early as 700-200 BC, DM was a well recognized disease in India and was even distinguished as two types; a genetically based disorder and other one resulting from dictary indiservetion. In India, indigenous remedies have been used in the treatment of DM since the time of Charaka and Sushruta. (Grover J. K. *et.al*., 2002) Nature always stands as golden mark to exemplify the outstanding phenomenon of symbiosis. The plants are indispensable to man for his life. Nature has provided a complete storehouse of remedies to cure all ailments of mankind. Over 50% of all modern clinical drugs are of natural products. Origin and natural products play an important role in drug development programs in the pharmaceutical industry. There has been a revival of interest in herbal medicines. This is due to the increased awareness of the limited products to control major disease and the need to discover new molecular structures as lead compounds from plant kingdom. Plants are the basic source of knowledge of modern medicine (Shende V.S. et.al., 2009). Inspite of presence of known antidiabetic medicines in the market, remedies from the medicinal plants are used with success to treat this disease possibly because they are considered to be less toxic and free from side effects compared to synthetic one(Patel S.S. et.al., 2009). Ethanobotanical information indicates that more than 800 plants are used as traditional remedies for the treatment of diabetes. Herbal medicines are used for primary healthcare, by about 801% world population particularly in the developing countries, because of better cultural acceptability, safety, efficacy, potent, inexpensive and lesser side effects. The plant drugs are considered less toxic when compared to synthetic drugs. More than 1123 plant species have been found to treat the diabetes and more than 200 pure compounds

***Corresponding Author:** M.D. Kitukale., **Email:** kitukalemanisha5@gmail.com

have showed lowering blood glucose activity. The WHO expert committee recommended the importance to investigate hypoglycaemic antihyperlipidemic agents from plant origin, used in traditional medicine for treatment of DM and hyperlipidemia. The antihyperglycemic agents have been focused on plants used in traditional medicine because that may be better treatment than currently used synthetic drugs.(Sellamuthu Periyar *et.al*., 2009).

Withania coagulans Dunal belongs to Solanaceae family been proved for antimicrobial, anthelmintic, antifungal, hepatoprotective, hypolipidemic, cardiovascular, free radical scavenging, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, immunosuppressive, depressant property.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Eight weeks old healthy Sprague-dawley rats (weighing 180-250g) was used for this study. Animals were housed in polypropylene cages with wire mesh top and husk bedding and maintained under controlled conditions of light (10h- light: 14h- dark), temperature (22±3°C), and humidity and fed with standard pellet diet and water, were used for the entire animal study.

Extraction procedure

- **Collection and authentication of plant materials**
  The flowers of *Withania coagulans* dunal, were collected from different parts of India. The plant material were identified and authenticated by Mrs. A. M. Gaharwar, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Yavatmal (Ref No. KVK/Ytl/Hort/22/2017).
- **Processing of sample**
  The flowers of *Withania coagulans* duna were dried in shade and then powdered to get a coarse powder. This powder was stored in an air tight container and used for extraction.

Extraction

The coarse powder of flowers of *Withania coagulans* dunal were subjected to successive extraction with methanol and thereafter water by maceration. Then filtered and dried on water bath.

Preliminary Phytochemical Screening

A combined knowledge of chemical constituents is desirable for supportive evaluation of natural drug or drug component as well as phytopharmaceuticals, for knowledge of phytopharmacology screening. Hence, all the extracts were subjected for preliminary phytochemical screening for identification of different constituents and plant metabolites present /extracted in different extracts.

Experimental Design

The animals were grouped into seven following groups. (n=6)

1. **Control Group:-** Animals were treated with vehicle alone
2. **Negative control Group :** Animals were treated with STZ (60 mg/kg)
3. **STD Group:** Diabetic rats were treated with standard drug Glibenclamide 0.5 mg/kg once daily *p.o.*
4. **Low dose MWC Group (MWC 200 mg/kg *p.o.*):** Diabetic rats were treated with MWC 200 mg/kg once daily *p.o.*
5. **High dose MWC Group (MWC 400 mg/kg *p.o.*):** Diabetic rats were treated with MWC 400 mg/kg once daily *p.o.*
6. **Low dose WWC Group (WWC 200 mg/kg *p.o.*):** Diabetic rats were treated with WWC 200 mg/kg once daily *p.o.*
7. **High dose WWC Group (WWC 400 mg/kg *p.o.*):** Diabetic rats were treated with WWC 200 mg/kg once daily *p.o.*

Induction of diabetes in rats by Streptozotocin (Ojha S, 2014)

Rats were made diabetic by intraperitoneal injection of STZ at dose of 60 mg/kg. STZ was first weighed individually for each animal according to the body weight and solubilized with 0.05 M citric buffer pH 4.5. It was then injected. 5% glucose was provided for 24 hrs to inhibit hypoglycemia. Administration of single dose of STZ in rats results in hyperglycemia within 72 hrs.

Sample Collection

Blood samples were collected by retro-orbital plexus puncture method and blood glucose levels was estimated by semi- automated electronic bioanalyser (Ambika Diagnostic, Parbhani, India)

RESULTS

Table 1: Phytochemical screening of *Withania coagulans* dunal flower

S. No	Phytoconstituents	Test	MWC	WWC
1	Alkaloid	Mayer's Test	+	+
		Dragendroff's Test	+	+
2	Flavonoids	Ferric Chloride Test	+	+
		Lead Acetate Test	+	+
3	Carbohydrates	Molisch Test	+	+
		Fehling Test	-	-
		Benedict's Test	+	+
4	Steroid	Salkowski's Test	+	+
		Libermann Barchared test	+	+
5	Tannins	Lead Acetate Test	+	+
		Gelatin Test	+	+
6	Proteins	Xanthoprotein test	+	+
		Biuret Test	+	+
		Lead Acetate Test	+	+
7	Glycoside	Keller Kiliani Test	-	-

+ Present, - Absent.

MWC- Methanolic extract of Flowers of *Withania coagulans* dunal, **WWC-** Aqueous extract of Flowers of *Withania coagulans* dunal,

Table 2: Effect of *Withania coagulans* Dunal on blood serum glucose level in STZ induced diabetic rats at 0, 3, 14 and 28 days

S. No	Groups	Glucose (mg/dl)			
		0 days	3 days	14 days	28 days
1	Control	88.7± 4.28	85.2±3.96	90.5±5.25	88.9±4.95
2	Negative control	91.6±5.10	273.9±15.7@	285.6±16.6@	270.6±15.2@
3	Standard	90.4±4.85	270.8±14.2	164.83±10.5**	94.5±5.46**
4	MWC (200mg/kg)	90.5±4.90	266.5±13.90	225.56±12.4*	77.32±10.8**
5	MWC (400mg/kg)	89.5±4.50	270.5±14.00	180.89 ± 11.1**	125.22±7.6**
8	WWC (200mg/kg)	90.6±4.94	268.5±13.95	217.56±12.1*	164.22±10.12**
9	WWC (400mg/kg)	91.5±5.05	265.4±13.70	171.96±10.2**	115.66±7.1**

Results are expressed as mean ± SD in mg/dl. (n=6)

@p<0.01 Compared with corresponding normal control group, **p<0.01 Compared with diabetic control group, *p<0.05 compared with diabetic control group.

Qualitative phytochemical analysis of MWC and WWC are indicated in (**Table 1**). Result shows presence of Alkoaloids, Flavonoids, Carbohydrates, steroids, tannins, proteins and absence of glycosides in all plant extracts. (**Table 2**) shows the effect of MWC and WWC on blood glucose level in STZ induced diabetic rats. There were significant increase ($p<0.01$) in the blood glucose level in all the groups treated with STZ compared to normal control group on 3rd to 28th day. After the confirmation of diabetes, rats were treated with MWC and WWC. There were significant ($p<0.05$) reduction in the blood glucose level in MWC (200 mg/kg), WWC (200 mg/kg) and a significant reduction ($p<0.01$) in blood glucose level in MWC (400 mg/kg) and WWC (400 mg/kg) treated group compared to diabetic control group on 14th and 28th day.

DISCUSSION

Diabetes is a complex and heterogeneous disorder presently affecting more than 100 million people worldwide and causing serious socio-economic problems. Appropriate experimental models are essential tools for understanding the pathogenesis, complications, and genetic or environmental influences that increase the risks of diabetes and testing of various therapeutic agents. The animal models of diabetes can be obtained either spontaneously or induced by chemicals or dietary or surgical manipulations and/or by combination thereof. In recent years, large number of new genetically modified animal models including transgenic, generalized knock-out and tissue specific knockout mice has been engineered for the study of diabetes (Srinivasan K, 2007). Streptozotocin (STZ) and Alloxan (ALX) are the most frequently used drugs and this model has been useful for the study of multiple aspects of the disease. Both drugs exert their diabetogenic action when they are administered parenterally (intravenously, intraperitoneally or subcutaneously). (Sharma R, 2013). Because of high mortality, ALX is now almost replaced by STZ for induction of diabetes in laboratory animals (Rees D. A, 2005) and hence for this study STZ was used to induce diabetes. Current

therapeutic agents are generally had inadequate efficacy and number of serious adverse effects. Thus, there is wide variety of newer therapeutic agents/strategies being examined for the treatment of diabetes (Cheng D, 2005; Bailey C. J, 2011). About 75 - 80% of world population seeking herbal therapy for primary health care. The synthesis of Herbal medicine is the backbone for the generation of therapeutic experiences of practicing physicians for over hundreds of years. Herbal medicines are now in great demand in the developing world not because they are inexpensive but also for better cultural acceptability, better compatibility with the human body and minimal side effects. (Pal S. K, 2013) Diabetes mellitus is the most common endocrine disorder, affecting more than 300 million people worldwide. For this, therapies developed along the principles of western medicine (allopathic) are often limited in efficacy, carry the risk of adverse effects & are often too costly, especially for the developing world. Therefore, treating diabetes mellitus with plant derived compounds which are accessible & do not require laborious pharmaceutical synthesis, seems highly attractive. There are various herbal drugs such as a *Allium cepal* Linn(Gazuwa S. Y,2013; Jevas C,2011), *Allium sativum* Linn(Gazuwa S. Y,2013; Thomson M, 2007) *Aloe vera*(Hussein A. M, 2013; Sahu. P. K, 2013), *Bidens pilosa*(Diego F, 2013), *Elephantopus scaber* (Prathapan R, 2014), *Magnifera indica* (Irondi A. E, 2016) etc. have significant antidiabetic activity due to the presence of chemical constituensts like alkaloids, glycosides, steroids, flavonoid, carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids etc. shows antidiabetic activity may be due to the insulin like effect on peripheral tissues either by promoting glucose uptake and metabolism and/or inhibiting hepatic gluconeogenesis (Gaikwad S. B,2014).

As *Withana coagulans* Dunal also contain alkaloids, Steroids, amino acids, flavonoids, proteins, carbohydrates and tannins.(Gupta V., 2013;Prasad S. K, 2010) Hence this plant was selected for screening antidiabetic activity and extracted by using Methanol and water solvent system (Salwaan C, 2012; Srivastava S. K, 2015).
The phytochemical study was carried out for confirmation of various phytochemicals and observed the presence of alkaloids. Steroids, amino acids, flavonoids, proteins, carbohydrates and tannins in Methanolic and aqueous extract of *Withania coagulans* Dunal flower, seeds of *Linum usitatissimum* (Linn.) and roots of *Coccinia Indica.* The treatment with MWC and WWC showed the significant (p<0.05) decrease in blood glucose level at 200 mg/kg and (p<0.01) significant at 400 mg/kg dose of extract in blood glucose level after 14 days of treatment as compared to the diabetic control group of rat. After the 28 days of treatment there were significant (p<0.01) decrease in blood glucose level in all treated groups with extracts as compared to the diabetic control groups of rats.
It might be due to the insulin production, stimulation, release from β cells and/or inhibiting hepatic gluconeogenesis, by decreasing the intestinal absorption of glucose by retarding the release of glucose during digestion, inhibit the α-glucosidase and pancreatic α-amylase possibly by the chemical constituents presents in the extracts of *Withania coagulans* Dunal flower.

CONCLUSION

The present study was designed to evaluate the anti-diabetic potential of flower of *Withania coagulans* Dunal based on its chemical constituents and its use as folk medicine for the control of diabetes. The antidiabetic study indicates that administration of methanolic and aqueous extract of *Withania coagulans* Dunal daily for 28 days showed significant decrease in the blood glucose of the STZ induced diabetic rats compared to the diabetic control rats. The findings of this research suggest that the methanolic and aqueous extract of *Withania coagulans* Dunal flower may contains bioactive constituents with anti-diabetic potential which can be used for the treatment of diabetes mellitus and related complications.

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