Efficacy of Securidaca Longepedunculata on the Parameters of Blood Glucose Level and Pulse Rate of Envenomed Albino Rats

J. Sanusi 1, J.A. Bawa 2*, I.S. Aghemwenhio 3, Z.S. Rabi’u 4, M.G. Sani 5 and S. Liadi 6

INTRODUCTION: Snake bite is a major public health problem with a large number of lives in the African continent and the world at large. The outcome of snake bite depends on numerous factors including species of snake, the area of the body bitten, the amount of venom injected and the condition of the victim.

Bites from non-venomous snakes can cause injury, often due to lacerations caused by the teeth or from a resulting infection. A bite may also trigger an anaphylactic reaction, which is potentially fatal. It is a common belief that snakes are generally venomous. However, of the 2,700 known species of snakes, only about 300 are venomous. The most common symptoms of poisonous snake bites include bloody wound discharge, fang marks in the skin and swelling at the site of the bite, severe localized pain, diarrhea, burning, convulsions, fainting, dizziness, weakness, blurred vision, excessive sweating, fever, increased thirst, nausea, vomiting, numbness, tingling and rapid pulse.
Snake bites may trigger the occurrence of diabetics with specific reference to high cholesterol accumulate heart and excessive glucose in the body of many vertebrates\(^6\).

Therefore, uncontrolled blood pressure and pulse rates may lead to several micro-vascular and macro-vascular (atheroma) complications that affect many organs of the body of vertebrates\(^8,9\). In many parts of the world, regular treatment for snake venom accident is serum therapy, which involves the parenthernal administration of antiophidian serum (antivenoms). This therapy efficiently neutralizes the systemic toxic effects, preventing death of victims.

Plants used traditionally as medicines constitute potentially useful resources of new drugs for treatment and control of diseases\(^10-13\).

Violet plant (Securidaca longepedunculata) is a medicinal plant used in parts of Africa. The plant is a savanna shrub with twisted bole or slender erect branches and grows up to 30 ft high. It grows in various parts of Western, Northern and Eastern Nigeria\(^14\), and in Malaysia, Guinea, Cuba and several Asian countries\(^15\). The active constituents of S. longepedunculata are used as folk medicine in traditional therapies of about 80% of the world’s population and over 50% of all modern clinical drugs are of natural product origin\(^16,17\). In Tanzania, the dried bark and root are used as a laxative for snake bites and nervous system disorders, with one cup of the mixture being taken daily for two weeks. In East Africa, dried leaves from the plant are used in the treatment of wounds and sores, coughs, venereal diseases, and snakebites. In Malawi, the leaves are also used for wounds, coughs, venereal diseases, and snakebites, as well as bilharzia, and the dried leaves are used to cure headaches. In other parts of the continent, parts of the plant are used to cure skin diseases, malaria, impotence, epilepsy, and are also used as an aphrodisiac\(^18\).

According to World Health Organization\(^19\) the use of a variety of plant extracts and phytochemicals, both with known anti snake venom and anti diabetic properties, can be of great significance in therapeutic treatments.

This research was carried out to determine the in vivo efficacy of violet plant (Securidaca longepedunculata) on parameters of blood glucose level and pulse rate of envenomed Albino rat.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

**Collection, Identification and Processing of Plant Material:** Fresh roots and leaves of Securidaca longepedunculata were collected during the month of May, 2013 at 5:30pm-6:05pm from Kudewa, Kurfi Local Government Area, Katsina State, Nigeria.

The plant was identified by Dr. Usman Umar and preserved in the Herbarium with Voucher Specimen No.: D-01SL-7, in the Botany Unit of the Department of Biological Sciences, Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria. The plant materials were properly washed under tap water, rinsed with distilled water, dried under shade and pulverized with a pestle and mortar and kept in a transparent sterile polyethylene bag at room temperature for use.

**Preparation of Extract:** Two hundred grams (200g), each of dried plant material was extracted by soaking in 1000 ml of ethanol and water (solvent) in 1000 ml of conical flask, and covered with aluminum foil and allowed for 24 hours. The extracts were filtered and the solvents removed by warming in oven at 40\(^\circ\)C for 3 days. The evaporated extract was stored for 48-hours in sterile universal bottles at room temperature, this methods is adopted by\(^20,21\).

**Percentage yield of the Crude Plant Extract:** The percentage yield of the extracts was obtained using the following formula in equation:

\[
\% \text{ yield} = \frac{s_2}{s_1} \times 100
\]

Where \(s_1\) - weight of powdered sample (g)

\(s_2\) - Weight of the extract obtained (g)

**Collection and Preservation of Snake Venom:** Lyophilized snake venom was obtained from traditional snake catcher Baba Mai Maciji of the Department of Biological Sciences Zoology Unit, Usman Danfodiyo University Sokoto. The venom of Naja nigricollis was milked by holding the head of the snake over a snake chilled beaker cover with a sheet of polyethylene. The snake was pressured to...
strike the polyethene and penetrate it with it fans until it releases the venom into the container. The venom was transferred in a sterilized sample bottle and preserved at 4°C.

**Laboratory Animals:** Healthy adult male Albino rats weighing in 250-300g were used for the study. They were housed in polypropylene cages, maintained under standard conditions (12h light and 12h dark). The Albino Rats were allowed to acclimatize to the environmental conditions for five days with access to clean water and animal feed (supplied by vital feed Sokoto) at the Botanical garden, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto Nigeria. Ethical clearance was obtained and duly followed from the Nigerian Laboratory animal welfare commission and Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN).

**In vivo Anti snake Venom Activity:**
**Animal Grouping and Treatment:** Wister albino rats male and female were randomly divided into five groups of six rats.

- **Group 1** - Group were injected with venom only
- **Group 2** - Group were injected with Snake Venom and treated with leaves extract
- **Group 3** - Group were injected with Snake Venom and treated with root bark extract
- **Group 4** - Group were injected with snake venom and treated with root bark extract and leaves Extracts
- **Group 5** - Group were injected with snake venom and treated with anti-snake venom

Rats were injected subcutaneously in the right hind paw with venom (0.2ml body weight), thirty minutes (30) later the rats was treated with plant extracts. The extract was administered orally using canola syringe at the dose of 200mg/kg, and 300mg/kg respectively of the body weight of the rats. The snake venom was on survival and mortality of model rats was calculated using the formula:

\[\lambda^2 = \frac{[(ad-bc)-n/2]^2n}{(a+b)(c+d)(a+c)(b+d)}\]

**Determination of in vivo Effect of S. longepedunculata on Blood Glucose level on Albino Rats:**
**Animal Grouping and Treatment:** Wister albino rats male and female were randomly divided into four groups of three rats each.

- **Group 1** - administered Leaf extract at 200mg/kg and 300mg/kg
- **Group 2** - administered root back extract at 200mg/kg and 300mg/kg
- **Group 3** - administered leaf and root back extracts at 200mg/kg and 300mg/kg
- **Group 4** - administered snake venom at 200mg/kg and 300mg/kg

The blood glucose level was determined according to the method described by. ACCU check glucose meter was used for the determination of the blood glucose level using test strip in the experimental rat before and after plant extract and venom administration. A drop of blood (2ml) were collected via tail bleeding of rats and applied to the strip area containing the chemical leading to glucose dye oxidoreductase reaction coursing color change to occur. The strips were inserted in to the meter and the blood glucose concentration was displayed.

**Determination of Pulse Rate:** The pulse rate was determined using Blood Pressure (B.P.) machine before and after administration. Five rats were inserted into the B.P machine and allowed to restrain and once settled for 20 minutes. The pulse rates were observed using machine meter and recorded.

**Statistical Data Analysis:** The parameters analyzed in all the phases of the study were subjected to statistical analysis. Statistical significance was determined by one-way analysis of variance with SPSS 16.0 Version. P < 0.05 considered as significant followed by Duncan’s Multiple Range Test to detect significant differences among the means as well as the interactions between the variable.

**RESULTS:**
**Percentage Yield of Plant Extract:** Table 1 shows result of weight of solute extracted from 400g of powdered leaves and root, percentage yield of the plant crude extract using ethanol and distilled water extract as solvents of extraction, the result indicate that organic extract has the highest percentage yield with 20.20% for the leaves and 11.86% for the root bark extract. The percentage yield of ethanol extract is significantly higher than the aqueous extraction P < 0.05.
**In vivo Anti snake Venom Activity:** Following injection of the snake venom at 0.2 and 0.3ml and application of the plant extracts at a dose of 200mg/kg and 300mg/kg respectively; a total number of survivals and mortality of the rat models treated with untreated ones of extracts is indicated in Table 2.

**Effect of S. longepedunculata on Blood Glucose level on Albino Rats:** The effect of the plant extracts in the blood glucose level of the rats following the envenomation is presented in Table 3. The plant extracts showed significant effect (P < 0.05) on blood glucose level, except that of combine leaves and root bark extracts which showed no significant effect (P > 0.05). Snake venom also has significant effect on the blood glucose level (P < 0.05) of treated rats.

**Effect of S. longepedunculata on Pulse Rate:** The effects of the plant extracts on pulse rate on the albino rats following the envenomatation are presented in Table 4. The results showed significant effect (P > 0.05) on root bark, leaves combined root bark and leaves extracts at all the concentrations and snake venom at 0.2 ml.

---

**TABLE 1: CRUDE YIELD OF EXTRACTION OF S. LONGEPEDUNCULATA LEAVES AND ROOT BARK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solvent</th>
<th>% Yielded</th>
<th>Leaves</th>
<th>Root bark</th>
<th>M+SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aqueous</td>
<td>18.18</td>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>1.79+17.78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethanol</td>
<td>20.20</td>
<td>11.86</td>
<td>2.5+1.48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 2: TESTING STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION OF ANTI-SNAKE VENOM POTENTIAL OF S. LONGEPEDUNCULATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>No. Survived</th>
<th>No. Died</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treated with plant Extract</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not treated with plant Extract</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The value of calculated $\lambda^2$ is 0.280 which is less than the critical level, at an allowable error ($\alpha$) of 5% and degree of freedom of 1 given as 3.84.

**TABLE 3: EFFECT OF SECURIDACA LONGEPEDUNCULATA ON BLOOD GLUCOSE LEVEL N=3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant part</th>
<th>Conc. mg/kg</th>
<th>Glucose 1 (mg/dl)</th>
<th>Glucose 2 (mg/dl)</th>
<th>P-value compared to the snake venom group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf extract</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>80.33+11.50</td>
<td>68.00+16.82</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>86.00+9.53</td>
<td>65.33+8.32</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root bark</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>88.66+23.96</td>
<td>76.66+20.03</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>67.33+9.86</td>
<td>66.33+4.93</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root + leaf</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>77.66+14.50</td>
<td>69.66+13.65</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>73.00+3.60</td>
<td>65.66+3.05</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake venom</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>63.00+5.65</td>
<td>74.50+3.53</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>72.00+18.68</td>
<td>94.66+14.84</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are means ± standard error of three replications
Glucose 1= Glucose level before administration
Glucose 2= Glucose level after administration

**TABLE 4: EFFECTS OF SECURIDACA LONGEPEDUNCULATA ON PULSE RATE IN ALBINO RATS N=3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant part</th>
<th>Conc. Mg/kg</th>
<th>PR 1(BPM)</th>
<th>PR 2(BPM)</th>
<th>P-value compared to the snake venom group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf extract</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1.75+13.45</td>
<td>2.36+17.32</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1.69+47.37</td>
<td>3.88+106.09</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root bark extract</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1.91+23.43</td>
<td>7.43+20.55</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>64.33+19.29</td>
<td>3.146+126.76</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root + leaf extract</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1.25+30.02</td>
<td>1.80+33.56</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1.64+7.50</td>
<td>3.01+60.06</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake venom only</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>83.66+22.05</td>
<td>2.63+12.58</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values are means ± standard error of three replications
PR 1= pulse rate before administration
PR 2= pulse rate after administration
DISCUSSION: It has been established in this study that the percentage yield of the plant crude extract using ethanol and distilled water as solvents of extraction has been reported. The result indicated that organic extract has the highest (20.20%) percentage yield, for the leaves and 11.86% for the root bark extract. The percentage yield of ethanol extract is significantly higher (P < 0.05) than the aqueous extraction.

The presence of chemical ingredients extracted from Securidaca longepedunculata plant might be used in diseases management. The chemical components incorporated in the plant extracts might possess some medicinal anti venom activity on the experimental animals used in this research.

These findings are in conformity with those reported by 2425 on phytochemical composition and acute toxicity of root bark extracts of S. longepedunculata. The presence of these bioactive compounds extracted from S. longepedunculata plant might have one or more therapeutic usage. This report is in accordance with the work of 26 who conducted phytochemical screening of leaves of twenty eight woody species from different plant families in Nigeria and discovered the presence of secondary metabolites in all samples, thus, the secondary metabolites seems cosmopolitan in plant but varying degrees and types.

Aqueous extract was also used for in vivo anti snake venom activities. The activity of the root bark extract at 200mg/kg increased the percentage survival which was comparable to that of standard anti venom. Similar study was also conducted by 27 who determined anti-snake venom activity of different extracts of Pouzolzia indica against russel viper venom. The result revealed that the ethanol and aqueous extracts were found to possess most significant activity. This could also be explained by the fact that the survival of the rats increased progressively with the increasing dose of the extracts in a dose dependent manner. It is also confirm that the potent snake venom had a neutralizing capacity of water extracts of S. longepedunculata against the snake venom. Extract of the root bark of S. longipedunculata exhibited neuromuscular blocking and negative inotropic and chronotropic cardiac effects 28 and also demonstrated spasmolytic activity on vascular and extra vascular smooth muscles in experimental animals 28.

It was reported in this research that plant extracts in the blood glucose level (200 and 300 Conc. Mg/kg) of the rats, with 80.33 and 86.00% in mg/dl; and 68.00 and 65.33% after administration. Following the envenomation it shows significant effect (P < 0.05) on blood glucose level, except that of combine leaves and root bark extracts which showed no significant effect (P > 0.05); with a mean 77.66 and 73.00 respectively before administration; and 69.66 and 65.66% after administering the glucose. Snake venom also had 63.00 and 72.00% before administration; 74.50 and 94.66 after glucose administration, indicating significant effect (P < 0.05) on the blood glucose level of treated rats.

Although, the chemical compounds that are present in the plant extract used in this research some were not determined, their presence and effectiveness might be responsible in controlling high glucose levels or tolerance in the albino rats. This report is in line with work of 29 reported that methanolic extract of Cochlospermum planchonii root at 250, 500 and 1000mg/kg b. w. reduced the blood glucose levels of alloxan-induced diabetic mice in a 360 minutes experimental period. The effects of the plant extract on pulse rate and glucose level of blood pressure of the albino rats was reported in this research, after administering the snake venom at 200 and 300 concentrations of 0.2 and 0.3 ml application. The results showed significant effect (P > 0.05) on leaf (1.79 and 1.69%), root bark (1.91 and 64.33%), combined root bark and leaves extracts (1.82 and 1.25%) at all the concentrations of the PR1 and a decreased of the blood glucose level at PR2 respectively. The blood glucose level and pulse rate in the experimental models was reduced at different concentrations as a result of regular administration of the extracts. This report is in accordance with the study of 30 noticed that the blood glucose of alloxanized rats after 48 hours ranged from 20.50-30.20 mmol/L and were significantly (P < 0.05) and progressively reduced in the glibenclamide and Aqueous root extract of Cochlospermum planchonii treated albino rats.

The in vivo activity of the S. longopedunculata reduced blood glucose level as a result of the
increased concentration of the extracts of the root bark, leaves and combined root bark and leaves extracts. This showed that the plant could be useful as anti diabetic treatment. The increased blood pressure of the glucose level might likely be due to the observed signs and symptoms after administration of the snake venom, to include: localized edema and swelling at the site of injection, increased heart beat, paralysis, and subsequently death were confirmation of earlier findings on the researches carried out on this venom. Therefore, determination of glucose concentration in blood of the experimental rats could serve as a useful, quantitative index of diabetes.

CONCLUSION: Neutralization of the *S. longipedunculata* extracts was checked for *Naja nigrocollis* and the *in vivo* activities were used to determine the anti venom activity of the plant extracts with a two dose levels and have shown significant neutralization. Hence, root bark extracts at 300mg/ml also showed a good anti venom activity. The plant extract indicated potential activity at 200 and 300 mg/kg concentrations of the glucosamine administered, with reduced high blood glucose level and pulse rate in the experimental rats.

**Ethical Approvals:** Ethical approval was gotten from the ethical committee of Sokoto and Katsina State Ministries of Health in Nigeria, before the commencement of the research. Authors in this work were hereby, declared that all experiments have been examined and approved by the appropriate ethics committee and have been carried out in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** Authors are thankful to Alhaji Sanusi Isma’il Kira, Isa Kaita College of Education Dutsin-ma, Katsina Nigeria; for his valuable suggestions and encouragement in seeing the completion of this research work.

**REFERENCES:**


How to cite this article: