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## ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY OF ETHANOL EXTRACTS OF LEAF AND BARK OF *NARINGI CRENULATA* (ROXB.) NICOLSON

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### ABSTRACT

Ethanol extracts of *Naringi crenulata* leaf and bark were evaluated for its anti-inflammatory activity at the dose levels of 250mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 500mg kg<sup>-1</sup> body weight using a Carrageenan induced paw oedema method (acute inflammation). Results showed that both leaf and bark ethanol extracts had potent and significant anti-inflammatory activity. These results were also comparable with reference drug indomethacin used in this study.

**INTRODUCTION:** 'Inflammation' is pathophysiological response of living tissue to injury that leads to local accumulation of plasmatic fluid and blood cells<sup>1</sup>. Inflammation results in the liberation of endogenous mediators like histamine, serotonin, bradykinin, and prostaglandins etc., Prostaglandins are hyperalgesic, potent vasodilators and also contribute to erythema, edema and pain<sup>2</sup>. Pain due to inflammation is an unpleasant sensation that is a consequence of complex neuro chemical processes in the central and peripheral nervous system<sup>3</sup>.

Drugs that are currently used for the management of mild to moderate, severe pains and for inflammatory conditions, are opioids, non-steroidal anti-inflammation drugs (NSAIDs) and corticosteroids. Studies reveal that the risk of gastrointestinal irritation<sup>4</sup>, liver damage<sup>5</sup> and renal damage<sup>6</sup> were significantly associated with acute use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. There is continuous search especially from natural sources for alternative agents.

Plants represent still a large untapped source of structurally novel compounds that might serve as lead for the development of novel drugs<sup>7</sup> that are capable of suppressing, reducing or relieving pain as well as inflammation with less adverse side effects.

'*Naringi crenulata*' commonly known '*kattunarakam*', '*Malanarakkam*', in Malayalam, '*Mahavilvam*' in Tamil, a wide spread species of the genus "*Naringi*". It has been used as folk medicine<sup>8</sup>. The root extract is used for vomiting, dysentery and colic disorders<sup>9</sup>. It is reported that its methanolic extract showed significant anthelmintic activity<sup>10</sup>.



Up to date, no pharmacological study has been reported for its anti-inflammatory activity, the present study was therefore, undertaken to evaluate the effect of ethanol extracts of leaf and bark of *Naringi crenulata* on anti-inflammatory activity in carrageenan induced rat paw oedema, so as to establish a scientific basis for the synthesis of new generation anti-inflammatory drugs.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS:

**Plant Material:** Leaves and bark of *Naringi crenulata* (Roxb) Nicolson, were collected in the month of February and March, 2010, from the Agasthiarmalai Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats, Tirunelveli. The plant was identified with the help of local flora and authenticated in Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. A voucher specimen of the plant was deposited in Ethnopharmacology unit, Research Department of Botany, V.O. Chidambaram College, Tuticorin.

**Preparation of plant extract for anti-inflammatory activity:** The leaf and bark of *Naringi crenulata* were cut into small pieces, washed, shade dried at room temperature and the dried plant materials were powdered in a Wiley mill. The powdered leaf and bark were separately packed in a soxhlet apparatus and extracted with ethanol. The ethanol extracts were concentrated in a rotary evaporator. The concentrated ethanol extracts were used for anti-inflammatory activity.

**Animals:** The healthy Adult Wistar albino rats of either sex, weighing 150-250g, were used for present investigation. Animals were housed under standard environmental conditions of temperature and humidity ( $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) and 12h light/dark cycle were utilized for studies. Rats were fed with standard pellet diet (Goldmohur brand, Ms Hindustan Lever Ltd., Mumbai, India) and water *ad libitum*

**Acute toxicity study:** For toxicity studies, six Albino rats of either sex were administered orally with the test substance in the range of doses 200-2000mg/kg and the mortality rates were observed after 72h. The ethanol extracts of leaf and bark of *Naringi crenulata* had shown no mortality at 2000 mg/kg. Therefore 2000mg/kg dose was considered as LD<sub>50</sub> cut off dose (safe dose).

So 1/8 and 1/4 of that were selected (250mg/kg and 500mg/kg) for the experiment as sub maximal and maximal dose.

## Anti-inflammatory activity:

**Carrageenan – induced hind paw oedema:** Albino rats of either sex weighing 150-200 grams were divided into four groups of six animals each. The dosage of the drugs administered to the different groups was as follows.

- Group I - Control (normal saline 0.5ml / kg)
- Group II - Leaf extract of *Naringi crenulata* (250mg/kg and 500mg/kg p.o)
- Group III - Bark extract of *Naringi crenulata* (250mg/kg and 500mg/kg p.o)
- Group IV - Indomethacin (10mg/kg p.o)

All the drugs were administered orally.

After one hour of the administration of the drugs, 0.1ml of 1% W/V carrageenan solution in normal saline was injected into the subplantar tissue of the left hind paw of the rat and the right hind paw was served as the control. The paw volume of the rats were measured in the digital Plethysmograph (Ugo basile, Italy), at the end of 0 min, 60 min, 120 min, 180 min, 240 min, 360 min and 480 min. The percentage increase in paw oedema of the treated groups was compared with that of the control and the inhibitory effect of the drugs were studied. The relative potency of the drugs under investigations was calculated based upon the percentage inhibition of the inflammation. The percentage inhibition of the inflammation was calculated from the formula;

$$\frac{\text{Control (\%Increase in paw volume in 3}^{\text{rd}} \text{ hour)} - \text{Test (\% increase in paw volume in 3}^{\text{rd}} \text{ hour)}}{\text{Control (\% increase in paw volume in the 3}^{\text{rd}} \text{ hour)}} \times 100$$

The anti-inflammatory effect of the extract was calculated by the following equation;

$$\text{Anti-inflammatory activity \%} = (1-D/C) \times 100$$

Where D represented the percentage difference in paw volume after the extract was administered to the rats and C represented the percentage difference of volume in the control groups.

**Statistical Analysis:** The observations were analyzed using students t-test statistical methods. For the statistical tests, p values of less than 0.01 and 0.05 were taken as significant.

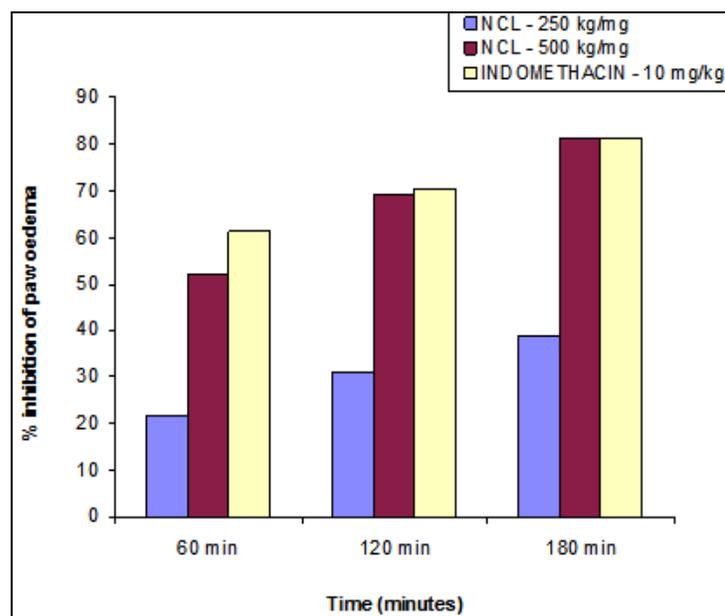
**RESULTS:** In the present study, the anti-inflammatory activity of ethanol extracts of leaf and bark of *Naringi crenulata* were assayed in Albino rats using Carrageenan induced rat paw oedema method. Table 1 shows the anti-inflammatory activity of ethanol extracts of the leaf and bark of *Naringi crenulata* significantly inhibited the rat paw oedema at 3<sup>rd</sup> hour post carrageenan were 38.59%, 81.39% for 250mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 500 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> of leaf extract and 72.04%, 79.69% for

250mg kg<sup>-1</sup> and 500mg kg<sup>-1</sup> of bark extract respectively. The results were compared with Indomethacin 10 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> show percentage paw reduction of 81.31%. The anti-inflammatory activity (%) were more pronounced and showed highest activity at 3hr post carrageenan were 52.77% and 98.17% for 250mg/kg and 500mg/kg of leaf extract (Fig. 1) and 84.14% and 98.25% for 250mg/kg and 500mg/kg of bark extract (Fig. 2). The anti-inflammatory effect of bark extract was most potent even with its lowest dose. Both leaf and bark ethanol extracts were seem to be more potent than the reference drug and exhibit significant anti-inflammatory effect.

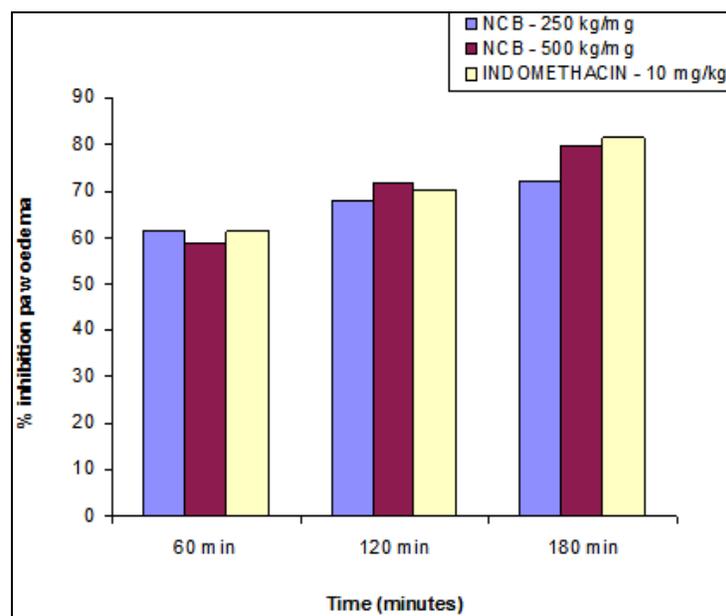
**TABLE 1: ANTI-INFLAMMATORY ACTIVITY OF ETHANOL EXTRACT OF NARINGI CRENULATA LEAF AND BARK AGAINST CARRAGEENAN INDUCED PAW OEDEMA IN ALBINO RATS**

Treatment	Dose mg/kg	Oedema volume (ml)				% Inhibition after 180 min	% Anti-inflammatory Activity
		0 min	60 min	120 min	180 min		
CONTROL (Group I)	Normal saline	31.33±1.63	76.56±1.84	106.36±2.51	129.56±2.54	-	-
<i>Naringi crenulata</i> Leaf extract (Group-II)	250mg/kg	33.16±1.59	60.16±1.65	73.16±1.94*	79.56±1.61*	38.59	52.77
	500mg/kg	22.31±1.16	36.64±1.91*	32.31±1.84**	24.11±1.41**	81.39	98.17
<i>Naringi crenulata</i> Bark extract (Group-III)	250mg/kg	20.64±1.24	29.54±1.16**	34.16±1.34**	36.22±1.63*	72.04	84.14
	500mg/kg	24.59±1.14	31.61±1.21**	30.11±1.69**	26.31±1.66*	79.69	98.25
Indomethacin	10 mg/kg	27.51±1.91	29.56±1.06**	31.61±1.13**	24.11±1.71*	81.31	103.4

Each Value is SEM ±6 individual observations, \* P < 0.05; \*\* P<0.01 Compared paw oedema induced control vs drug treated rats



**FIG. 1: ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECT OF LEAF OF NARINGI CRENULATA**



**FIG. 2: ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECT OF BARK OF NARINGI CRENULATA**

**DISCUSSION:** Carrageenan induced inflammation is useful to detect orally active anti-inflammatory agents. The development of oedema in the paw of the rat after injection of Carrageenan is a multi-mediated phenomenon that liberates diversity of mediators<sup>12</sup>, and it has been described as a biphasic event<sup>13</sup>. The initial phase seen at 60min (+1hr) is attributed to the release of histamine and serotonin<sup>14</sup>, while the second accelerating phase (over 1hr) of swelling is due to the release of prostaglandin like substance<sup>15</sup>, the cyclooxygenase products and the continuity between the two phases is provided by kinins<sup>16</sup>. Development of oedema induced by Carrageenan is commonly correlated with early exudative stage of inflammation<sup>17, 18</sup>.

It has been reported that the second phase of oedema is sensitive to both clinically useful steroidal and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents<sup>19</sup>. Results of present study shows the significant activity observed in the suppression of earlier phases of carrageenan induced inflammation by both standard and crude drugs may be due to inhibition of the release of early mediators of inflammation such as histamine, serotonin and kinins. The pattern of antiinflammatory activity and % inhibition in paw volume exhibited by these extracts were similar to that of Indomethacin which suggests that the plants activity may be mediated by cyclooxygenase (I) and (II) inhibition.

The reference Indomethacin (NSAID) used in this study are known to inhibit cyclooxygenase enzymes (I) and (II) which are implicated in the production of inflammation mediating agent prostaglandin from arachidonic acid. Since Carrageenan induced inflammation model is a significant predictive test for antiinflammatory agents acting by mediators of acute inflammation, the results of this study are an indication that *Naringi crenulata* can be effective in acute inflammatory disorders.

It can be concluded that the present work indicate the efficacy of leaf and bark extract of *Naringi crenulata* as efficient acute phase anti-inflammatory drugs, traditionally used by Indian medical practitioners in the treatment of various types of pains and inflammation.

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