

## PHARMACOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF ETHYL ACETATE EXTRACT OF PAVONIA ZEYLANICA FOR ANALGESIC ACTIVITY

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to investigate the analgesic activity of *Pavonia zeylanica* using Acetic acid induce writhing, Eddy's Hot plate methods. The test and standard drugs significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) reduced the number of abdominal constriction and stretching of hind limb induce by the injection of acetic acid in a dose dependent manner. The Eddy's Hot plate and acetic acid induced writhing method useful in the elucidating centrally mediated antinociceptive responses, which focused mainly on changes above the spinal cord level. All the test and standard drugs significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) reduced the pain as compare to the control group. The results of pharmacological tests performed in the present studies suggest that the test and the standard drugs suggest the potent analgesic activity.

**KEYWORDS:** *Pavonia zeylanica*, Eddy's hot plate, acetic acid, test, std drug.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Analgesia/Pain

Pain is a unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with tissue damage. In medicine pain relates to sensation of that hurts. If you feel pain it hurts, u feel discomfort, distress and perhaps agony, depending on the severity of it. Pain can be steady and constant,

in which case it may be an ache. It might be a throbbing pain- a pulsating pain. The pain could have a pinching sensation or a stabbing one. (Christian Nordqvist *et al.*, 2012)

### **Types of pain**

Acute pain- this can be intense and short live, in which case we call it acute pain, it may be an indication of injury. When the injury heals the pain usually goes away.

Chronic pain- this sensation last longer than acute pain, chronic pain may be mild or intense (severe).

### **Classification of pain**

#### **Pain**

- ✓ Nociceptive and
- ✓ Non nociceptive.

#### **Nociceptive pain**

It is divided into 2 types

1. Somatic
2. Visceral

Specific pain receptors are stimulated, these receptors sense temperature (hot/cold), vibration, stretch and chemicals released from damaged cells.

#### **Somatic pain**

A type of nociceptive pain. Pain felt on the skin, muscle, joints, bones and ligaments. The term Musculo-skeletal pain means somatic pain.

The pain receptors are sensitive to temperature, vibration and stretch (In the muscles). They are also sensitive to inflammation, as would happen if you cut yourself, sprain something that causes tissue damage. Pain as a lack of oxygen, as in ischemic muscle cramps, are a type of nociceptive pains. Somatic pain is generally sharp and well localized. If u touch it or move the affected area the pain will worsen.

#### **Visceral pain**

A type of nociceptive pain. It is felt in the internal organs and main body cavities. The cavities is divide into the thorax (Lungs and Heart), abdomen (Bowels, Spleen, Liver and

Kidneys) and the pelvis (Ovaries, bladder and Womb). The pain receptors-nociceptors sense inflammation, stretch and ischemia (Oxygen starvation).

Visceral pain is more difficult to localize than somatic pain. The sensation is more likely to be a vague deep ache. Colicky and cramping sensations are generally types of visceral pain. Visceral pain commonly refers to some type of back pain-pelvic pain generally refers to the lower back, abdominal pain to the mid-back, and thoracic pain to the upper back.

### **Never pain or neuropathic pain**

Never pain is also known as neuropathic pain. It is a type of non-nociceptive pain. It comes from within the nervous system itself. People often refer to it as pinched nerve, or trapped nerve. The pain can originate from the nerves between the tissues and the spinal cord (Peripheral nervous system) and the nerves between the spinal cord and the brain (Central nervous system, or CNS)

Neuropathic pain can be caused by nerve degeneration, as might be the case in a stroke, multiple-sclerosis, or oxygen starvation. It could be due to a trapped nerve, meaning there is pressure on the nerve. A torn or slipped disc will cause nerve inflammation, which will trigger neuropathic pain. Nerve infection, such as shingles can also cause neuropathic pain.

Pain that comes from the nervous system is called non-nociceptive because there are no specific pain receptors. Nociceptive in this text means responding to pain. When a nerve is injured it becomes unstable and its signaling system becomes muddled and haphazard. The brain intercepts these abnormal signals as pain. This randomness can also cause other sensations, such as numbness, pins and needles, tingling and hypersensitivity to temperature, vibration and touch. The pain can sometimes be unpredictable because of this.

### **Sympathetic pain**

The sympathetic nervous system controls our blood flow to our skin and muscles, perspiration (Sweating), by the skin, and how quickly the peripheral nervous system works.

Sympathetic pain occurs generally after a fracture or a soft tissue injury of the limbs. This pain is non-nociceptive- there are no specific pain receptors. As with neuropathic pain, the nerve is injured, becomes unstable and fires off random, chaotic, abnormal signals to the brain, which interprets as pain.

Generally with this kind of pain the skin and the area around the injury become extremely sensitive. The pain often becomes so intense that the sufferers aren't use the effected arm or leg. Lake of limb use after a time can cause other problems such as muscle vesting osteoporosis, and stiffness in the joints.

### Etiology of pain

Acute pain can last a moment rarely does it become chronic pain. Chronic pain persists for long periods. It is resistant to most medical treatment and cause severe problems. However the types and causes of pain are nerve pain, chest pain, burn pain, pinched nerve pain, foot pain, knee pain, lower leg pain, pelvic pain, elbow pain etc.

### Pathophysiology of pain

In the past it was thought that a sensory input, such as a pinprick, would simply cause a pain "signal" to be send directly to the brain via in single nerve. Although still not completely understood today, the science of pain reveals a much more complex process, and theories are still continuing to evolved.

New receptors, pathways, hypothesis are being investigated everyday. In addition to identifying new pathways, genetic variations have been discovered at the receptor level that can further complicate treatment. It is important to have a basic knowledge of the physiology to treat pain effectively.



**Figure 1: *Pavonia zeylanica*.**

Plants have an almost limitless ability to synthesize aromatic substances mainly secondary metabolites, of which at least 12,000 have been isolated, a number estimated to be less than 10% of the total. In many cases, these substances serve as the molecules of plant defence against predation by microorganisms, insects and herbivores. Further, some of which may

involve in plant odour (Terpenoids), pigmentation (Tannins and Quinines) and Flavour (capsaicin).

However, several of these molecules possess medicinal properties. Plants are endowed with free radical scavenging molecules, such as vitamins, terpenoids, phenolic acids, lignins, stilbenes, tannins, flavonoids, quinones, coumarins, alkaloids, amines, betalains, and other metabolites, which are rich in antioxidant activity. Studies have shown that many of these antioxidant compounds possess anti-inflammatory, anti-atherosclerotic, antitumor, anti-mutagenic, anticarcinogenic, antibacterial, and antiviral activities. The ingestion of natural antioxidants has been associated with reduced risks of cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and other diseases associated with ageing, and in recent years, there has been a worldwide trend towards the use of the natural phytochemical present in berry crops, teas, herbs, oilseeds, beans, fruits and vegetables. *Pavonia zeylanica* is a plant that has shown potential as a source of chemotherapeutic compounds. Phytochemical studies have revealed that the plant is rich in flavonoids and other water soluble polyphenolic compounds (Surabhi shrivastava *et al.*, 2011).

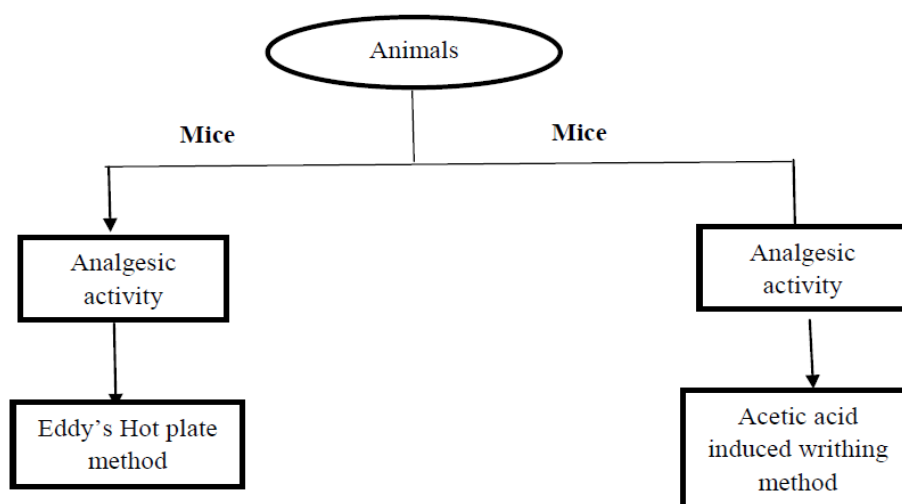
## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

**Table 1: Materials for analgesic activity.**

S. No.	Materials
1	Acetic acid
2	Ibuprofen
3	Tremadol

### Scheme of work



**Figure 2: Scheme of work.**

**Experimental animals**

Adult mice of either sex weighing about 20-25g were used for the study. Mice were housed properly and fed with free access to water. Room temperature was controlled at  $25\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  with 12-hour light, 12-hour dark cycle. All the experiments were carried out according to the guidelines recommended by the Committee For The Control and Supervision Of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA), Government of India.

**Experimental design**

The experimental group consists of 24 mice divided equally into four groups, each consisting of 6 animals.

Group 1- Normal control.

Animals were treated with water after 12 hours of fasting

Group 2-Standard

Animals were treated with standard drug Ibuprofen/ Tremadol 10mg/kg administered thorough oral route.

Group 3- *Pavonia zeylanica* Dose-1

Animals were treated with *Pavonia zeylanica* (150 mg/kg) after 12 hours of fasting, administered orally.

Group 4- *Pavonia zeylanica* Dose-2

Animals were treated with *Pavonia zeylanica* (300 mg/kg) after 12 hours of fasting, administered orally.

**METHODS****Analgesic activity**

**Animals:** Healthy adult male Albino mice (25-35g) were used. The mice were housed in polypropylene cages and maintained under suitable nutritional and environmental (12hr light: 12hr dark cycle) throughout the experiment. The animals were fed with water and standard mice pellets.



**Figure 3: Mice.**

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Hot plate latency test**

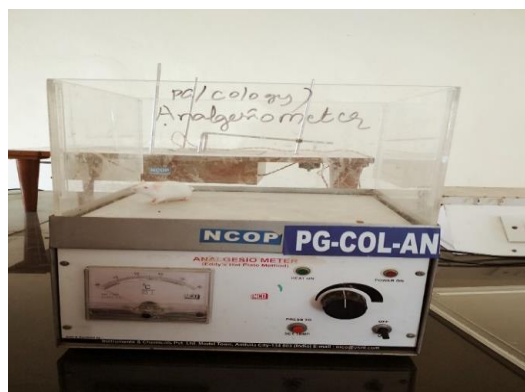
The paws of mice and rats are very sensitive to heat at temperatures which are not damaging the skin. The responses are jumping, withdrawal of the paws and licking of the paws. The time until these responses occur is prolonged after administration of centrally acting analgesics, whereas peripheral analgesics of the acetylsalicylic acid or phenyl-acetic acid type do not generally affect these responses.

The animals were each placed on a hot plate maintained at 55<sup>0</sup>C, 30 min after administration of test compounds, standard and saline. The time taken for the rats to respond to the thermal stimulus (Usually by jumping) was noted as the latency (In second).

The test drugs, control and std were administered orally to the animals after 12 hrs of fasting. The animals were each placed on a hot plate maintained at 55<sup>0</sup>C, 30 min after administration of test compounds, std and saline. The time taken for the rats to respond to the thermal stimulus (Usually by jumping) was noted as the latency (In second).

The mean of the latency for each group was determined. The effects of the test drugs, std and saline were also determined after 0, 15, 30, 60, 120 min of administration to mice.





**Figure 4: Analgesimeter.**

**Table 2: Groups of Eddy's hot plate method.**

Group(n=6)	Treatment
1	Water (Control)
2	Std drug
3	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-1 (150mg/kg)
4	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-2 (300mg/kg)

#### Acetic acid induced writhing method

Acetic acid induced writhing method was adopted for evaluation of analgesic activity. Writhing is defined as a stretch, tension to one side, extension of hind legs, contraction of the abdomen so that the abdomen of mice touches the floor, turning of trunk (twist). Any writhing is considered as a positive response. Swiss albino mice weighing between 15-35g were used for evaluation of analgesic activity; in each group six albino mice were kept.

A solution of acetic acid (1% v/v) in distilled water was prepared. A solution of Ibuprofen (dose-100mg/kg/10ml) was prepared in normal saline water.

Wistar albino mice of either sex were divided into four different groups each containing six animals, the animals were marked individually. Food was withdrawn 12 hours prior to drug administration till completion of experiment. The animals were weighed and numbered appropriately. The test and standard drugs were given orally. After 30 minutes writhing was induced by intraperitoneal injection of 1% acetic acid in volume of 0.1 ml/10g body weight. The writhing episodes were recorded for 20 minutes; stretching movements consisting of arching of the back, elongation of body and extension of hind limbs were counted.

The percentage protection of writhing method is calculated by the following formula

$$\frac{W_c - W_t}{W_c} \times 100$$

Where,  $W_c$  = No. of writhing's of control group



Wt= No. of writhing's of test group



**Figure 5: Mice producing writhing's.**

**Table 3: Groups of acetic acid induced writhing method.**

Group(n=6)	Treatment
1	Water(Control)
2	Std drug
3	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-1 (150mg/kg)
4	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-2 (300mg/kg)

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

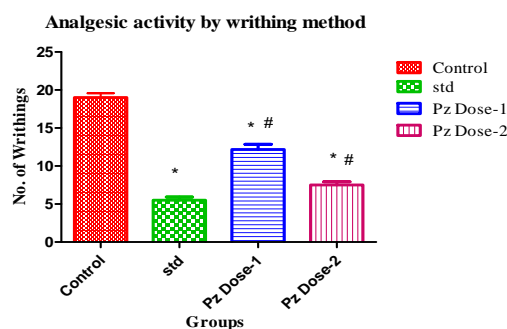
### Statistical analysis

The experimental results were expressed as the Mean + SEM. Data were assessed by the method of analysis of ANOVA followed by Dunnet's multiple comparison test.

**Table 4: Writhing response of drugs with time in analgesic activity.**

S. No	Groups	No. of writhing's	% Protection
1	Control	19±0.58	-
2	Standard	5.5±0.43*	71%
3	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-1	12.17±0.70*	33%
4	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-2	7.5±0.42*	60%

The results obtained as percentage protection against writhing are shown in table -1. The results showed that standard drug, ethyl acetate extract of PZ (150 and 300 mg/kg), p.o suppressed the acetic acid-induced writhing response significantly in a dose dependent manner. The results were found to be highly significant in comparison to the control.



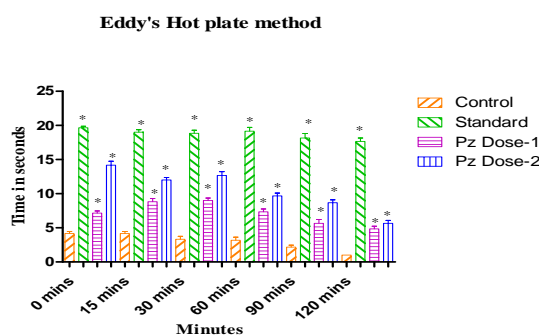
Values are Mean ± SEM, N=6, P<0.05, P<0.0001. \*P<0.05 Compared with control, #P<0.05 compared with standard

**Figure 6:** Graph representing the analgesic activity by writhing method.

**Table 5:** Analgesic response of drugs with time in analgesic activity.

S. No	Group	0 min	15 min	30 min	60 min	90 min	120 min
1	Control	4.17±0.3	4.16±0.3	3.33±0.42	3.16±0.47	2.16±0.3	1
2	Standard	19.67±0.21*	19±0.36*	18.83±0.47*	19.17±0.54*	18.17±0.65*	17.67±0.49*
3	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-1	7.17±0.3*	8.8±0.47*	9±0.36*	7.33±0.42*	5.67±0.56*	4.83±0.40*
4	<i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> Dose-2	14.17±0.60*	12±0.36*	12.67±0.56*	9.66±0.42*	8.67±0.42*	5.66±0.42*

The results for eddy's hot plate method are shown in table-2. After drug administration, reaction time increased significantly for the standard and test groups when compared to the control. Standard drug (Tramadol 5mg/kg, i.p), test drug (ethyl acetate extract of *Pavonia zeylanica* 150 & 300mg/kg p.o) produced a dose-dependent increase in the reaction time at various time intervals of observation. The results were found to be highly significant in comparison to the control.



Values are Mean ± SEM, N=6, P<0.05. \*P<0.05 compared with control

**Figure 7:** Graph representing the analgesic activity by eddy's hot plate method.

## DISCUSSION

The ethyl acetate extract of *pavonia zeylanica* was evaluated for analgesic activity by using Eddy's hot plate method and Acetic acid induced writhing method.

The hot plate test is useful in elucidating anti-nociceptive responses, which focuses mainly on changes above the spinal cord level. Pain is centrally modulated via a number of complex processes including opiate, dopaminergic. Descending noradrenergic and serotonergic system. The analgesic effect produced by the test compounds may be via central mechanisms involving these receptor systems or via peripheral mechanisms involved in the inhibition of prostaglandins, leukotrienes and other endogenous substances that are key players in inflammation and pain (Pasero *et al.*, 1999, Millan *et al.*, 2002). In this study test compounds showed maximum significant activity.

The abdominal constriction response induced by acetic acid is a sensitive procedure to evaluate peripherally acting analgesics. In general, acetic acid causes pain by liberating endogenous substances such as serotonin histamine, prostaglandins (PGs), bradykinins and substance P, endings. Local peritoneal receptors are postulated to be involved in the abdominal constrictions response. The method has also been associated with prostanoids in general that is, increased levels of PGE2 and PGF2 $\alpha$  in peritoneal fluids as well as lipooxygenase products.

The significant increase in pain threshold produced by tests and standard in these models suggests involvement of central pain pathways. Pain is centrally modulated via a number of complex processes including opiate, dopaminergic descending noradrenergic and serotonergic systems. The analgesic effect produced by the tests and standards may be via central mechanisms involving these receptor systems or via peripheral mechanisms involved in the inhibition of prostaglandins, leukotrienes, and other endogenous substances that are key players in pain.

The selective cox-2 inhibitor has high effective than the conventional NSAIDs and has low GI and high cardiovascular side effects than to the conventional NSAID<sup>s</sup>. Etoricoxib is a cox-2 inhibitor with a high degree of selectivity of its target. It provides an alternative to other selective and traditional NSAIDs in taring patients with arthritis and other painful conditions.

## CONCLUSION

The present experimental study protocol showed that ethyl acetate extract of *Pavonia zeylanica* elicited significant analgesic activity in Eddy's hot plate method and acetic induced writhing model. In both model they exhibited analgesic effect in a dose dependent manner which can be comparable with that of diclofenac and tramadol respectively. On preliminary phytochemical screening the ethyl acetate extract of *Pavonia zeylanica* was found to contain flavonoids, phenolic compounds & tannins, saponins, triterpenoids, alkaloids, and steroids compounds. Flavonoids are known to target prostaglandins which are involved in the late phase of acute inflammation and pain perception. Hence, the presence of flavonoids may be contributory to the analgesic activity of ethyl acetate extract of *Pavonia zeylanica*. Further studies may reveal the exact mechanisms of action responsible for the analgesic activity of ethyl acetate extract of *Pavonia zeylanica*. It was also concluded that the extract showed analgesic activity peripherally and centrally. The plant may have the phytoconstituents which inhibit cyclooxygenase enzyme for reducing analgesia peripherally or act on central opioid receptors ( $\mu$  receptors) for reducing analgesia centrally. Standard drug diclofenac sodium act on cyclooxygenase pathway of prostaglandins synthesis and tramadol act on central opioid receptors mechanism.

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## Conflicts of interest

None to declare for all authors.

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