

Anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial activities and phytochemical analysis of the tuber extracts of *Dioscorea oppositifolia* Linn.

¹M. Sandhya Rani and ²R.R.Venkata Raju*

¹Research Scholar Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur- 515003, India

²Professor, Department of Botany, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur- 515003, India

ABSTRACT

Background: The present paper deals with the phytochemical analysis, in-vitro anti-microbial activity and anti-inflammatory activity of tuber extracts of *Dioscorea oppositifolia*. The anti-inflammatory activity of the tuber extracts were subjected wistar albino rats in order to find out the pharmacological basis for its ethno-medicinal claims by adivasis properties.

Materials and methods: Acute toxicity studies were performed and produced no mortality in dose up to 5000 mg / b.wt and further screened for anti-inflammatory activity in carrageenan induced rat hind paw oedema.. The in-vitro antimicrobial activity was depicted by disk diffusion method using ethyl acetate, methanol and aqueous extracts.

Results. Preliminary phytochemical screening revealed the presence of alkaloids, phenols, flavonoids, steroids, tannins, glycosides, etc. All the test extracts exhibited significant antimicrobial activity on certain pathogens when compared to positive control. The results revealed that aqueous and methanol extracts were significantly effective at 100 mg / kg.b.w with 57.89; and 63.15% of inhibition respectively when compared with that of standard drug diclofenac

Conclusion: The data suggest that the tuber extracts of *D. oppositifolia* produce significant antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory principles that could be due to the effect of one or more bio active components in test extracts.

Keywords: *Dioscorea oppositifolia*, Phytochemical analysis, anti-inflammatory activity, carrageenan, wistar albino rats, antimicrobial activity.

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I. Introduction

Plants are the great source for the invention of pharmaceutical compounds and medicines. Natural products could be potential drugs for humans or live stock species and also these products and their analogues can act as intermediates for synthesis of useful drugs [1]. Plants possess many phytochemicals with various bioactivities including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anticancer [2] anti microbial activity [3] and one among such plants is *Dioscorea oppositifolia*, climber widely used in the treatment of many human and veterinary ailments in herbal and folk medicine. Inflammation is a normal protective response to tissue injury and it involves a posh array of enzyme activation, mediator release, fluid extravasations, cell migration, tissue breakdown and repair [4], which are aimed toward host defense and typically activated in most disease conditions. The critical role of inappropriate inflammation is becoming accepted in many diseases that affect man, including cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory and autoimmune disorders, neurodegenerative conditions, infection and cancer. Inflammation is component of the complex biological response of plant tissue to harmful stimuli such as pathogens, damaged cells, or irritant. Anti-inflammatory refers to the property of a substance or treatment that reduces inflammation. Anti inflammatory drugs structure about half of analgesics, remedying pain by reducing inflammation as against to opioids, which affect the central nervous system.

Dioscorea oppositifolia L. belongs to the family Dioscoreaceae. The tuber is used for post pregnancy tonic [5], anti diabetic [6], swellings, scorpion stings and snake bites [7] and for toothache by local adivasis. The leaves, flowers, tender shoots and tubers are used in the form of decoction for leprosy and cancerous lesions for cooling and demulcent. The leaves are used for increase of sperm count [8], antiseptic for ulcers and abscesses. The whole plant is used in application for oedematous tumours and the ash extract of flowering twigs along with tender leaves to cure cancer and leprosy [9]. Previous reports indicate that contain phytochemicals such as Dioscorine [10] and Diosgenin [11] have been isolated from various species of *Dioscorea*. Pharmacological investigations have demonstrated that *Dioscorea* possess anthelmintic activity [11], antioxidant activity [12], anti-inflammatory activity [13] and anti tumour activity [14], anti-diarrhoeal [15], antipyretic [16] analgesic [17] and anti microbial [18]. Due to its high value of medicinal usage, the present study was carried out

to evaluate the phytochemical composition, Antimicrobial activity and Anti-inflammatory activity of different solvents extracts of the tubers of *D.oppositifolia*.

II. Materials And Methods:

Collection and identification of plant Material :

Plant material was collected from Tirumala and Talakona hills along the Seshachalam Hill Ranges of Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh during August-November, 2017 and its identification was authenticated using flora of Kurnool (Venkataraju and Pullaiah) and also compared with that of MH, Coimbatore and voucher specimens (No:40352) were preserved in the herbarium (SKU), Department of Botany, S.K.University, Anantapur as per the standard method^[19]. Tubers were thoroughly washed, cut in to pieces and further dried under shade at 28 ± 2 ° C for about 10 days. The dried parts were ground well in to a fine powder in a mixer grinder and sieved to particle size of 50 – 150mm. The powders were stored in a polythene bags at room temperatures.

Extract preparation:

Shade dried tuber powder was subjected to soxhlet extraction with n-hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol. Simultaneously aqueous extract also prepared, and all samples reduced to semisolid extracts and the same were preserved in air tight bottles at 4°C in a refrigerator until further use.

Chemicals and instruments:

All chemicals used in the estimation were of analytical grade. Carrageenan was purchased from sigma chemicals; reference standard Diclofenac sodium was obtained from Apollo Pharmaceuticals, Anantapur, India. Measuring the oedema sliding Vernier calipers was used.

Microorganisms used:

The microbial strains viz., , *Micrococcus luteus* MTTC 2470, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* MTCC 7028, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* MTCC 7296, *Salmonella enterica* MTCC 98, *Fusarium oxysporum* MTCC1272 and *Candida albicans* MTTC 854, were used to test with different extracts. The standard micro-organisms were obtained from the Microbial Type Culture Collection Centre, Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH), Chandigarh, India.

Animals:

Adult male Wistar albino rats (150g -180 g) for the *in-vivo* evaluation of anti-inflammation activity was purchased from Sri Venkateswara Traders, Bengaluru. They were housed under standard laboratory conditions and were fed with standard animal feed *ad libitum* and water. The experimental protocol was approved by institutional animal ethical committee No: (Protocol No .SKU/Biochem /03/2016)

Phytochemical analysis:

The n-hexane, ethyl acetate, methanol and aqueous tuber extracts of *D.oppositifolia* were qualitatively analysed to find out the phytoconstituents as per standard methods^(21; 22; 23; 24; 25 ;26).

Antimicrobial activity:

The antimicrobial activity of the extracts was evaluated by disc diffusion method^{[27][28]}. Previously prepared paper discs containing different concentrations of solvent extracts were placed on the surface of the petriplates, containing 20 ml of respective media seeded with 0.1 ml of previously prepared microbial suspensions (10^5 CFU/ mL).The discs containing methanol, ethyl acetate and aqueous extracts used as control . Ciproflaxin (10 µg/disc) used as positive control. The discs containing ethyl acetate , methanol and water served as negative controls. The assessment of antimicrobial activity was based on measurement of inhibition zones formed around the discs. The plates were incubated for 24 h at 37°C and the diameter of the inhibition zones was recorded. Three independent trials were conducted for each concentration.

Acute toxicity studies:

Acute oral toxicity study was performed as per OECD-423 guidelines and Wistar rats (n =6) were kept fasting for overnight providing only water, after which the extracts were administered orally at the dose level of 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 5000 mg/kg body weight by intragastric tube and observed for 14 days. If mortality was observed in 2-3 animals, then the dose administered was assigned as toxic dose. If mortality was observed in one animal, then the same dose was repeated again to confirm the toxic dose. Mortality was observed and then the LD50 was calculated.

Anti-inflammatory study:

Male Wistar rats were used as the animal model for acute inflammation as per the standard methods^[29] . Acute inflammation was produced by sub plantar injection of 0.1 ml of 1% suspension of carrageenan with 2% gum acacia in normal saline, in the right hind paw of all experimental rats 1h after the oral administration of test materials. The paw volume was measured by dorso ventral measurements of rat hind footpad (paw diameter) using a sliding vernier calipers before and at 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 hr intervals after the carrageenan injection. The

tuber extract was administered at 100, 300, 500 and 1000 mg/kg b.w. Diclofenac sodium 100 mg/kg b.w was used as standard anti-inflammatory drug. Percentage of inhibition of oedema volume between treated and control was calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{V_c - V_t}{V_c} \times 100$$

Where, V_c = Mean increase in paw volume of the control group. V_t = Mean increase in paw volume of treated group.

Nine groups of six rats each were taken. Group I treated with normal 2% Gum acacia solution of 1ml/kg b.wt, Group II received carrageenan; Group III treated with Diclofenac by oral route; Group IV- IX receive tuber aqueous and methanol extracts at a concentrations of 250, 500 and 1000mg respectively along with 1% carrageenan 0.1ml and 2% Gum acacia Solution.

Statistical Analysis: All values were expressed as Mean \pm SEM, and data was analyzed by one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dunnett's -test using Graph Pad Instat.

III. Results:

Preliminary phytochemical analysis:

Phytochemical screening of the various extracts of tubers of *D. oppositifolia* showed the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, triterpenoids, phenols, tannins, saponins, steroids, quinines, carbohydrates, protein, amino acids, lignins, Polyoses etc. However, some phytoconstituents were absent in some extracts as reported (Table 1). This variation in the results could be due to the difference in the polarity of solvents used for extraction. The phytoconstituents, gums and mucilage, carotenoids, emodins and coumarins were not reported in any of the plant extract. All the extracts were reported to exhibit positive result in color reaction only for alkaloids, flavonoids and phenols. The phytochemical constituents of the plant extracts investigated are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Qualitative analysis of the phytochemicals present in the tubers of *D. oppositifolia* Linn.

| Phytochemicals | n-Hexane | Ethyl acetate | Methanol | Water |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------|-------|
| Saponins | - | - | + | + |
| Flavonoids | + | + | + | + |
| Triterpenoids | - | - | + | + |
| Alkaloids | + | + | + | + |
| Glycosides | - | - | + | + |
| Gums and Mucilage | - | - | - | - |
| Steroids | - | + | + | + |
| Carbohydrates | - | - | + | + |
| Protein and Amino acids | - | - | - | + |
| Tannins | - | - | + | + |
| Phenolic compounds | + | + | + | + |
| Anthocyanins and Anthocyanidins | - | - | + | + |
| Carotenoids | - | - | - | - |
| Coumarins | - | - | - | - |
| Emodins | - | - | - | - |
| Lignins | - | - | ++ | - |
| Polyoses | - | - | + | + |

(+) Positive (-)Negative

Antimicrobial activity: The antimicrobial activity of *D. oppositifolia* solvent (methanol, ethyl acetate and aqueous) extracts was studied at different concentrations (0.25,0.50 and 1 mg/ml) against human pathogenic micro organisms :Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria and fungal strains are presented in table 2.The methanol extract showed the potent inhibitory effect against *S.enterica* 20mm compare to positive control. The ethyl acetate extract exhibited highest inhibition zone against *C.albicans* (20mm) whereas least against *M.luteus* (13mm).The methanol and ethyl acetate extracts showed maximum antimicrobial activity while aqueous extract exhibited minimum against all test micro organisms with zone of inhibition range of 8-17mm. At 1mg/ml, inhibition zone of solvent extracts were more than 0.25 and 0.5mg/ml. The antimicrobial activity of different solvent extracts exhibited concentration dependant performance.

Table:2 Anti microbial activity of different solvent extracts of tubers of *D.oppositifolia* / (solvent extracts of *D.oppositifolia* of tubers)

| S. N | Microbial strains | Solvent extracts (Zone of inhibition in mm ⁻¹) | | | | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|--|----------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| | | Methanol | | Ethyl acetate | | Aqueous | | Ciproflaxin |
| | | 0.50 mg/ml | 1 mg/ml | 0.50mg/ml | 1mg/ml | 0.50mg/ml | 1mg/ml | 1mg/ml |
| 1 | <i>Micrococcus luteus</i> | 1.03±0.1 | 1.46±0.1 | 1±0.1 | 1.36±0.15 | 0.96 ±0.05 | 1.1±0.1 | 3.13±0.15 |
| 2 | <i>Salmonella enterica</i> | 1.5±0.1 | 2.03±0.1 | 1.1±0.2 | 1.63±0.05 | 1.1±0.1 | 2.73±0.63 | 4.03±0.15 |
| 3 | <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> | 1.23±0.1 | 1.46±0.1 | 1.46±0.11 | 1.6±0.1 | 1.2±0.05 | 0.86±0.05 | 5.1±0.1 |
| 4 | <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> | 1.6±0.1 | 1.73±0.1 | 1.2±0.17 | 1.66±0.11 | 1.23±0.15 | 1.50±.52 | 3.93±0.05 |
| 5 | <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> | 1.2±1.1 | 1.43±0.1 | 1.1±0.1 | 1.43±0.11 | 10. ±1 | 1.2±0.1 | 4.26±0.058 |
| 6 | <i>Candida albicans</i> | 1.5±1.6 | 1.96±0.1 | 1.3±0.1 | 2.06±0.05 | 1.73±0.11 | 1.66±0.15 | 4.3±0.2 |

Each value represents Mean ± SD of three replicates.

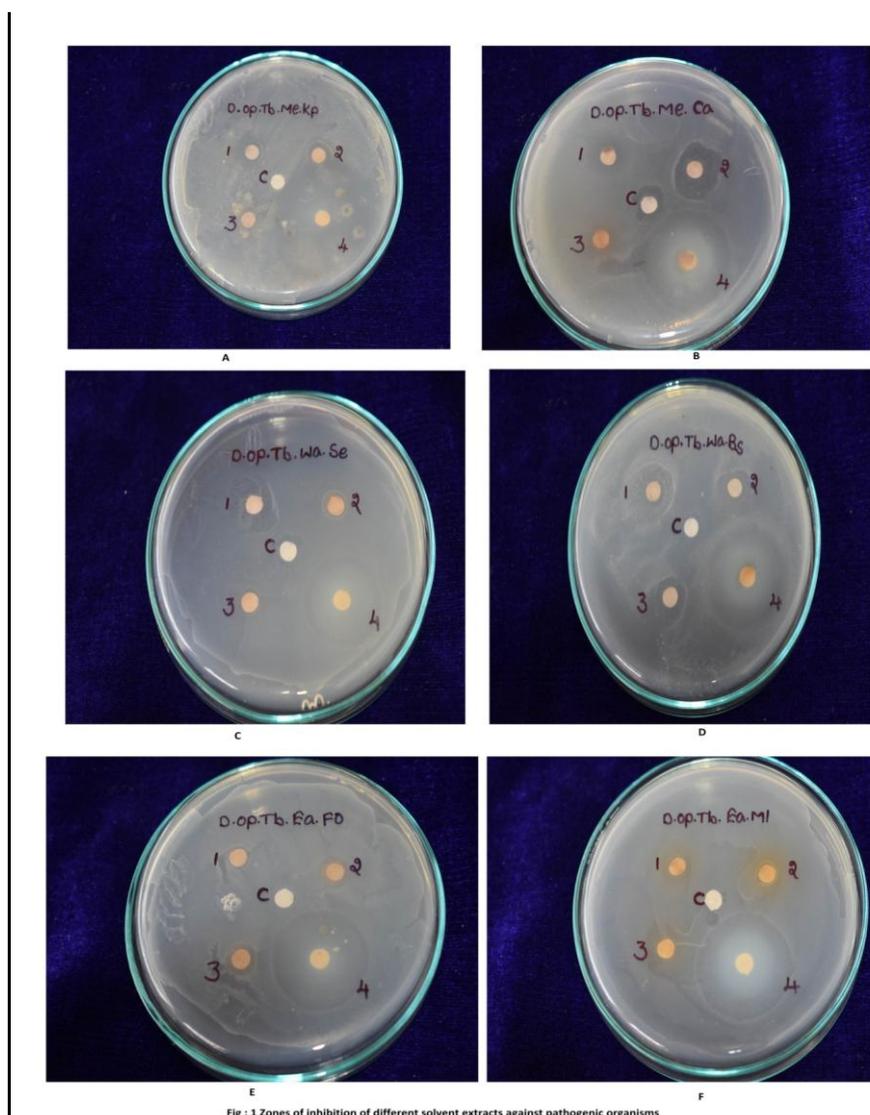


Fig : 1 Zones of inhibition of different solvent extracts against pathogenic organisms

Antimicrobial activity of different extracts of *D.oppositifolia* in three different concentrations. 1)25mg/ml ; 2)50 mg/ml ;3)75 mg/ml ;4) Antibiotic and C= control against different strains. A,B= Methanol; C,D =Ethyl acetate; E,F= Aqueous

Acute Toxicity Studies :Acute toxicity studies with Aqueous and methanol tuber extracts of *D.oppositifolia* in a single oral dose did not show any significant toxicity signs on Wistar albino rats when observed for first four hours and followed by daily observations upto 14 days and no mortality and also there is no signs and symptoms such as changes in body weight and food intake, psychomotor activities, restlessness, respiratory distress,

diarrhoea, convulsions and coma. And it was found safe up to the dose of 5000 mg/kg b.wt according to OECD guidelines 425. Hence 1/5th and 1/10th dose of 5000mg/kg (LD50) 1000mg and 500 mg/kg b.wt can be used as safe dose for experimental studies.

Tabel:3: Effect of Tuber Extracts on Carrageenan- Induced rat hind paw oedema (mm)

| Extracts | Dose mg /kg. b.wt. | Diameter of Paw edema in mm | | | | | | % of Inhibition |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| | | 0.5hr | 1hr | 2hr | 3hr | 4hr | 5hr | |
| Normal | | 3.0±0.04 | 3.0±0.04 | 3.0±0.00 | 3.1±0.04 | 3.0±0.04 | 3.0±0.04 | |
| Control | | 7.1±0.09 | 8.1±0.04 | 8.4±0.04 | 9.1±0.04 | 9.3±0.04 | 9.5±0.04 | |
| Diclofenac | 100 | 7.8±0.06 | 5.9±0.12 | 4.1±0.25 | 3.9±0.10 | 3.6±0.08 | 3.5±0.04 | 63.15% |
| Aqueous | 250 | 7.3±0.15 | 6.6±0.00 | 5.8±0.12 | 5.3±0.15 | 4.4±0.06 | 4.0±0.00 | 57.89% |
| | 500 | 6.7±0.06 | 6.1±0.12 | 5.4±0.17 | 4.8±0.10 | 4.0±0.12 | 3.5±0.03 | 63.15% |
| | 1000 | 5.9±0.12 | 5.7±0.15 | 4.9±0.06 | 4.6±0.06 | 3.4±0.03 | 2.6±0.04 | 72.63% |
| Methanol | 250 | 6.5±0.00 | 5.6±0.10 | 5.2±0.06 | 4.7±0.10 | 4.0±0.12 | 3.5±0.04 | 63.15% |
| | 500 | 5.8±0.12 | 4.9±0.10 | 4.5±0.06 | 4.1±0.03 | 3.6±0.03 | 3.1±0.10 | 67.36% |
| | 1000 | 5.1±0.10 | 4.6±0.06 | 4.4±0.15 | 3.9±0.10 | 2.9±0.05 | 2.0±0.05 | 78.94% |

Anti-inflammatory Activity: Carrageenan induced rat paw oedema was reduced by the methanol extracts at 250 mg/kg b.wt more effectively than aqueous extracts compared to the standard drug Diclofenac at 100 mg/kg b.wt. The most effective activity observed with tuber methanol at 250 mg/kg b.wt showed equal activity to that of diclofenac with 63.15% of inhibition of inflammation (Table-3; Plate-1).



Plate-1
Anti-inflammatory Activity of *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L. tuber extracts

IV. Discussion:

Phytochemical constituents like alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, phenols, saponins, and number of other aromatic compounds are secondary metabolites of plants that serve a defense mechanism against predation by many microorganisms, insects and other herbivores^[29]. The present study administered on the plant samples revealed the presence of medicinally active constituents. Martin^[30] reported a bioactive compound Diosgenin, is a saponin used in the synthesis of steroidal drugs. Several publications represent the highest ever estimated diosgenin content in plant material, measured by Behera *et al.*^[31] in *D. zingiberensis*, *D. pubera*, *D. spicata*, *D. hispida* and *D. hamiltonii*^[32]. Poornima and Ravishankar,^[33] reported saponins, alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, and phenols in *D. belophylla*. Cardiac glycosides content found in methanol extract, have been used for over two centuries as stimulant in case of cardiac failure^[34;35]. Further terpenes or terpenoids are active against bacteria^[36;37;38]. The presence of terpenoids shows that it might be effective against any bacterial infections. Different types of phenolic compounds present in tubers and other parts of *Dioscorea* species^[39;40;41;42].

According to previous reports *Dioscorea* species associate secondary metabolites which are proved to be very good antimicrobial agents. These bioactive compounds are known to act by different mechanism and exert antimicrobial action. Tannins bind to proline rich proteins and intrude with the protein synthesis^[43]. Flavonoids are hydroxylated phenolic substance known to be synthesized by plants in response to microbial infection and it should not be surprising that they have been found *in vitro* to be effective antimicrobial substances against a good array of microorganisms. Their activity is possibly due to their ability to complex with extracellular and soluble proteins and to complex with bacterial cell walls^[44]. Diosgenyl saponins, one of the most abundant steroid saponins, with diosgenin as the steroidal saponin, are reported to exert a large variety of biological functions such as antifungal, antibacterial, and anticancer^[45]. Alkaloid is one among the phytochemical compounds identified during this study. It has been allied with medicinal uses for hundreds of years. Most common biological properties of alkaloids are their toxicity against cells of foreign organisms, anti-inflammatory, anti-asthmatic, and anti-anaphylactic properties^[46;47;48]. The studies of Quan *et al.*^[49] reported potent antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis* and *S. aureus* of diosgenin derivatives like 2,6-iodopseudogiosgenin and 2,6-iodo-pseudogiosgenone. Sautour *et al.*^[50] showed steroidal saponins from *D. cayenensis* to possess activity against *C. albicans*. Therefore, the presence of phytochemicals could justify the observed antifungal activities in the current study. The CHCl₃-soluble portion of the crude extract and the two clerodanes showed significant activities against *P. aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhi*, *S. paratyphi A* and *S. paratyphi B*, which was reported by Teponno *et al.*^[51]. Inflammation is a common phenomenon and it is a reaction of living tissues towards injury^[52]. The development of edema in the paw of the rat after the injection of carragenan is due to the release of histamine, serotonin, prostaglandin^[53]. Most widely used anti-inflammatory drugs are non steroidal (NSAID). Long term usage of NSAID may induce gastro-intestinal ulcers, bleeding and renal disorders due to their non selective inhibition of cyclo oxygenase (COX-1 & COX-2) enzymes further leads for the disturbance of arachidonic acid metabolic pathway produces prostaglandins which causes pains and inflammation^[54;55;56]. *D. oppositifolia* tuber methanol extracts showed effective anti inflammatory activity at 100 mg/kg b.w on rats proved up to 61.05% of inhibition. This is in accordance with the previous reports^[14;28]. In the year 2007, Wantana Reanmongkol *et al.*^[57] observed the anti inflammatory effect with ethanol and aqueous extracts of tuber of *D. membranacea*. Panduranga *et al.*^[58] reported anti inflammatory activity of ethanolic leaf extract of *D. hispida*. *D. oppositifolia* tuber extracts possess phenols, diosgenin supports its anti inflammatory activity^[31;33]. The results of the present study indicates that extracts of tuber of *D. oppositifolia* possess significant anti-inflammatory activity on acute inflammation. Similar results were also obtained in the earlier reports of *Dioscorea* species^[14;59].

In conclusion, *D. oppositifolia* contain potential anti-inflammatory and phytochemical components that may be of great use for the development of pharmaceuticals as a therapy against various human and veterinary ailments. The plant crude extracts could serve as potential sources of new antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory agents. The presence of flavonoids, tannins and phenol may have contributed to the observed pharmacological activity, based on this, further attempts are being made to evaluate the therapeutic potency of biodynamic active principles present in the test species.

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