

ABSTRACT

Aim- In order to scientifically appraise some of the anecdotal, folkloric, ethnomedical uses of *Oxalis corniculata* Linn., the present study was undertaken to examine the antidiarrhoeal properties of aqueous (AQOC) and alcoholic (ALOC) extracts of leaves of *Oxalis corniculata* Linn.

Material & methods- Antidiarrhoeal effect was evaluated by castor oil induced diarrhoea, charcoal meal test and PGE₂ induced diarrhoea. Loperamide (LPM-3 mg/kg) and atropine (ATR-5 mg/kg) were used as reference drugs for comparison. AQOC and ALOC were used in the doses of 300, 500 and 800 mg/kg. **Results-** Both AQOC and ALOC produced significant dose dependant antidiarrhoeal effect, showed ($P < 0.01$) significant delay in onset of diarrhoea and reduced the number of wet defecation in castor oil induced diarrhoea and also inhibited PGE₂ induced enteropooling significantly in rats by respective doses. The extracts were also decreased the propulsion of the charcoal meal through gastrointestinal tract.

Conclusion- Results suggest that the antidiarrhoeal effect of both the AQOC and ALOC probably due to the inhibition of prostaglandin biosynthesis and/or prevention of consequences of prostaglandin release and also by its smooth muscle relaxant activity.

Key words: *Oxalis corniculata* Linn.; Castor oil diarrhoea; Charcoal meal; PGE₂.