

Evaluation of In Vitro Anti-Urolithiatic Activity of the Hydroalcoholic Extract of Artocarpus lakoocha Leaves

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Abstract: *Aim and Objective:* Evaluation of In vitro Anti-urolithiatic activity of the hydroalcoholic extract of Artocarpus lakoocha leaves. *Method and Material:* These included nucleation, aggregation, and microscopic analysis. The extract's and cystone effects on nucleation and aggregation slopes were measured spectrophotometrically, while crystal density was examined microscopically.

Result: The hydroalcoholic extract significantly inhibited the nucleation and aggregation of CaOx crystals, reduced crystal density and size, these effects were comparable to Cystone. *Discussion:* The extract demonstrated strong anti-urolithiatic activity by inhibiting calcium oxalate crystallization, decreasing crystal density. These effects, similar to those of Cystone. *Conclusion:* The hydroalcoholic leaf extract of Artocarpus lakoocha shows promising in vitro anti-urolithiatic activity.

Keywords: Anti-urolithiatic, Nucleation, Aggregation, Microscopic, Artocarpus lakoocha.

I. INTRODUCTION

Urolithiatic conditions involving the formation of stones in the urinary tract, including the kidneys, bladder, or ureters. It is derived from "urolithiasis," which denotes the presence of urinary stones. Urolithiatic conditions can cause symptoms like pain, urinary obstruction, and infection. Treatment often focuses on removing or managing the stones, as well as preventing their recurrence through changes in diet, fluid intake, and addressing underlying health issues that contribute to stone formation. Urolithiatic disorders may result from factors such as dehydration, genetic predisposition, or dietary imbalances. Managing these conditions often involves medication, lifestyle changes, and in some cases, surgical interventions to remove larger stones.^[1]

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material

In September 2024, a specimen of Artocarpus lakoocha Buch.-Ham was collected from the region of Utraula (Uttar Pradesh) for the purpose of botanical study. The collection was under the supervision and authenticated by Dr. Farzin M. Parabia, voucher number- numbered VNGSU/BVBRC/2024/09/TC-55 was dated 25/09/2024. Who authenticated specimen as Artocarpus lakoocha Buch.-Ham belonging to family Moraceae.

Extraction:

Fine bark powder of Artocarpus lakoocha Buch.-Ham collected from Utraula, Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, India. Solvent such as 70% Ethanol and 30% distilled water of high purity was used.



Fig.1

The fine leaves powder was subjected to Hydro-alcoholic extraction using an ultrasonication-assisted method. Ultrasonic waves were applied to the mixture of leaves powder and ethanol using an ultrasonic bath sonicate. The Filtration was performed using filter paper to obtain a clear extract for Experimental Reference.^[2]

Evaluation of the in vitro anti-urolithiatic activity:

Preparation of experimental kidney stones (calcium oxalate (CaOx) stones) by homogenous precipitation: Solutions of CaCl₂ and Na₂C₂O₄ (50 mM) were mixed. The mixture was then heated at 60 °C in a water bath for 1 h and incubated overnight at 37 °C in an oven to form the CaOx crystals.^[3]

Nucleation Assay:

The impact of *Artocarpus lakoocha* hydro-alcoholic leaf extract on calcium oxalate (CaOx) crystal formation was assessed through a nucleation assay, following the procedure outlined by D.M.G. Mosquera, et al.^[3] A 5 mM solution of calcium chloride (CaCl₂) and a 7.5 mM sodium oxalate (Na₂C₂O₄) solution were prepared in a Tris-HCl (0.5 M) and NaCl (0.15 M) buffer at pH 6.5.

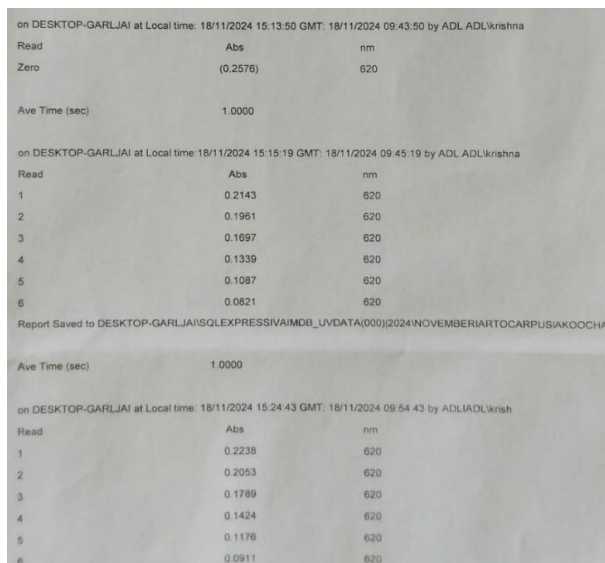
Different concentrations of the extract and Cystone® (from Himalaya Herbal Healthcare, India, batch no. 11700204) ranging from 100 to 1000 µg/mL were prepared in distilled water. For each concentration (100 µg/mL, 200 µg/mL, 400 µg/mL, 600 µg/mL, 800 µg/mL, and 1000 µg/mL), 1 mL of the extract or Cystone® was mixed with 3 mL of CaCl₂, followed by the addition of 3 mL of Na₂C₂O₄ solution. The mixtures were incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes, then allowed to cool to room temperature. The optical density (OD) of the resulting mixtures was then measured at 620 nm using a spectrophotometer.

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The percentage inhibition for the extract and Cystone® was calculated using the formula:

$$\% \text{Inhibition} = [1 - (\text{OD}_{\text{test}} / \text{OD}_{\text{control}}) \times 100]$$

where OD_{test} is the optical density of the *Artocarpus lakoocha* extract and OD_{control} the optical density of the negative control



Read	Abs	nm
Zero	(0.2576)	620
Ave Time (sec) 1.0000		
on DESKTOP-GARLJAI at Local time: 18/11/2024 15:13:50 GMT: 18/11/2024 09:43:50 by ADL ADLkrishna		
Read	Abs	nm
1	0.2143	620
2	0.1961	620
3	0.1697	620
4	0.1339	620
5	0.1087	620
6	0.0821	620
Report Saved to DESKTOP-GARLJAI\SQLEXPRESS\AIMDB_UVDATA(000)\2024\NOVEMBER\ARTOCARPUSIAKOOCHA		
Ave Time (sec) 1.0000		
on DESKTOP-GARLJAI at Local time: 18/11/2024 15:24:43 GMT: 18/11/2024 09:54:43 by ADLIADLkrish		
Read	Abs	nm
1	0.2238	620
2	0.2053	620
3	0.1789	620
4	0.1424	620
5	0.1176	620
6	0.0911	620

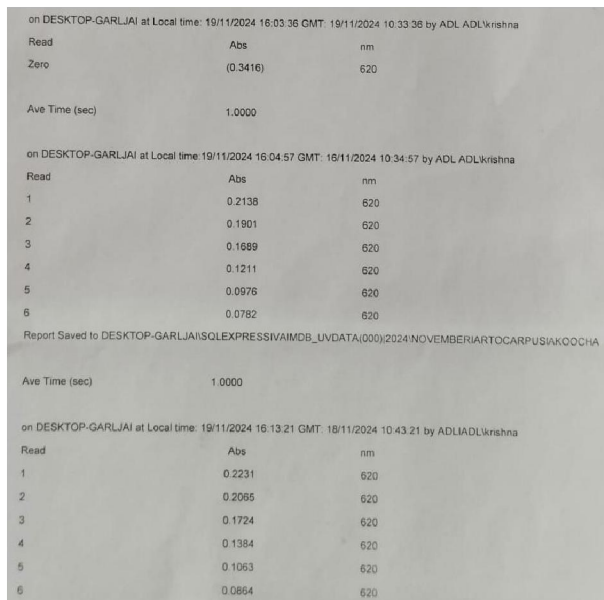
Fig.2

Microscopic Assay:

Microscopic analysis was conducted to evaluate the number, size, and morphology of the CaOx crystals formed in the absence or presence of the extract and Cystone®. This was done using an LED microscope at a 1000× magnification.^[4]

Aggregation Assay:

The impact of the extracts and Cystone® on CaOx crystal aggregation was assessed following the method described by Bawari et al. (2018) [5]. Solutions of CaCl₂ and Na₂C₂O₄ (50 mM each) were mixed, heated to 60°C in a water bath for 1 hour, and then incubated overnight at 37°C. After drying, a CaOx crystal solution (0.8 mg/mL) was prepared in a 0.05 M Tris-HCl and 0.5 M NaCl buffer at pH 6.5. For each dilution (100–1000 µg/mL) of the *Artocarpus lakoocha* extract and Cystone®, 1 mL was added to 3 mL of the CaOx solution, vortexed, and incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes. The optical density (OD) of the final mixtures was measured at 620 nm, and the percentage inhibition of aggregation was calculated in the same manner as the nucleation assay.



Read	Abs	nm
Zero	(0.3416)	620
Ave Time (sec) 1.0000		
1	0.2138	620
2	0.1901	620
3	0.1689	620
4	0.1211	620
5	0.0976	620
6	0.0782	620
Ave Time (sec) 1.0000		
1	0.2231	620
2	0.2065	620
3	0.1724	620
4	0.1384	620
5	0.1053	620
6	0.0864	620
Ave Time (sec) 1.0000		

Fig.3

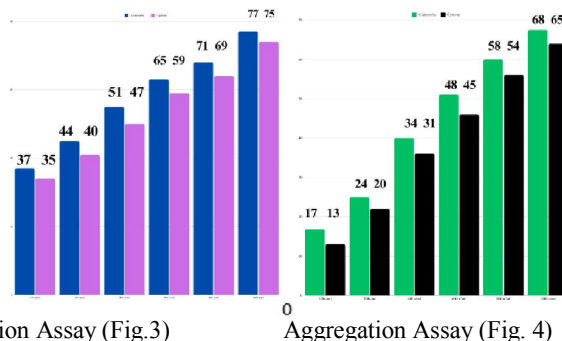
III. RESULT

Evaluation of the in vitro anti-urolithiatic activity

In the nucleation assay, the addition of Na₂C₂O₄ solution to the reaction mixture containing CaCl₂ led to the formation of numerous CaOx crystals (fig.1&3) . Microscopic examination revealed that the control group predominantly exhibited large CaOx monohydrate (COM) crystals, which had either an ovoid shape . At higher concentrations, the extract (Fig. 2) and at lower concentrations, Cystone® (Fig. 3) encouraged the formation of Ovoid-shaped calcium oxalate crystals with a smoother morphology. Both the extract and Cystone® reduced the size and number of the CaOx crystals. The percentage reduction in the size of the CaOx crystals for the extract (77.08%) was similar to the reduction observed with Cystone® (74.70%).

In the aggregation assay, the extract significantly reduced the aggregation of preformed CaOx crystals. The percentage reduction in aggregation caused by the extract at 1000 µg/mL was 68.12%, compared to 64.63% for Cystone® (Fig. 2&4).

In Microscopic assay, the addition of Na₂C₂O₄ solution to the reaction mixture containing CaCl₂ led to the formation of numerous CaOx crystals (fig. 5). Microscopic examination revealed that the control group predominantly exhibited large CaOx crystals, which had either an ovoid shape. Both the extract and Cystone reduced the size and number of the CaOx crystals. The reduction in the Density and Size of the CaOx crystals for the was similar to the reduction observed with Cystone.



Extract (Blue) Extract (Green)
 Cystone (Purple) Cystone (Black)

1- 100 µg/mL 1- 100 µg/mL
 2- 200 µg/mL 2- 200 µg/mL
 3- 400 µg/mL 3- 400 µg/mL
 4- 600 µg/mL 4- 600 µg/mL
 5- 800 µg/mL 5- 800 µg/mL
 6- 1000 µg/mL 6- 1000µg/mL

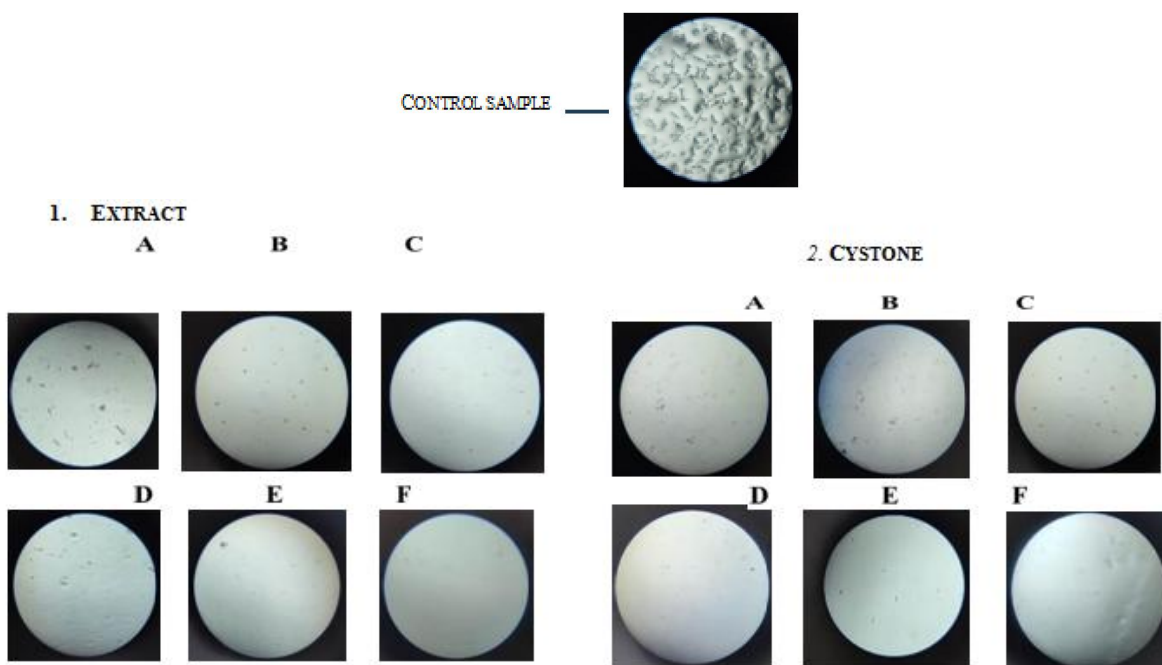


Fig. 5

Microscopic images:

The Artocarpus lakoocha extract exhibited a dose-dependent effect on calcium oxalate (CaOx) crystals, where an increase in concentration led to a reduction in both the size and density of the crystals. Representative photographs of CaOx crystals, observed under the light microscope, clearly demonstrated this trend at different concentrations of the extract, compared to the control sample.

1. Artocarpus lakoocha Extract
2. Cystone (Standard Drug)
3. X Control Sample

The concentrations were (Both) : (A) 100 µg/mL, (B) 200 µg/mL, (C) 400 µg/mL, (D) 600 µg/mL, (E) 800 µg/mL, (F) 1000 µg/mL

IV. DISCUSSION

Artocarpus lakoocha has been reported to possess notable antiurolithiatic properties. The hydroalcoholic leaf extract of this plant has demonstrated the ability to inhibit the formation of kidney stone crystals, particularly calcium oxalate crystals. These findings suggest that Artocarpus lakoocha could be a promising natural option for both preventing and managing kidney stones, offering a potential alternative to conventional treatments.

V. CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study clearly demonstrate the antiurolithiatic potential of the Artocarpus lakoocha leaf extract against calcium oxalate (CaOx) urolithiasis in vitro. The extract exhibited inhibition of all phases of CaOx stone formation, including nucleation, aggregation, and crystal growth, when compared to the standard treatment, Cystone. The hydroalcoholic leaf extract of Artocarpus lakoocha shows promising in vitro anti-urolithiatic activity, highlighting its potential for both preventing and treating urolithiasis. Additionally, the administration of the extract significantly reduced the development of urolithiasis in a rat model, further supporting its therapeutic potential.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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