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In vivo studies: multi-disciplinary action of *Digitalis purpurea* Linn. extract in rabbits

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ABSTRACT

In continuation to our studies on Digitalis purpured Linn., now we report that on oral introduction of its extract in low concentration (25mg/ml)for 90 days in rabbits (male & female), most of the blood parameters were found normal except platelet count(elevated; 508.5±0.836 in comparison to control group). In kidney function test uric acid (0.063±0.007) and globulin (2.605±0.0083) levels were declined while others were raised in the male test group whereas only globulin (5.87±0.01) level was found elevated in female treated group and the rests were at the lower side. In cardiac enzymes evaluation, CPK level was elevated in both genders (male = 630.5±0.836; female = 927.5±0.836) whereas variations in other enzymes were also observed. In both genders, HDL level was found raised (male = 21.167 ± 1.036 ; female = 14 ± 0.632) while in other lipid profile parameters, variation was found between both genders. SGPT was found raised in both genders (male = 191.5 ± 0.836 ; female = 83.5 ± 0.836) whereas variation was observed in rest of liver enzymes results of both genders. Histo-pathology results at a low doses of *D. purpurea* extract for a period of 90 days are completely in accordance of blood parameters. No effects were found on heart, stomach, liver and kidney tissues in comparison to control group. Furthermore, in CCl4 toxicity induced test this drug showed hepatoprotective action. From our previous and present investigations, it is concluded that the drugs have anthelmintic, insecticidal, molluscicidal, antioxidant, BP stabilizing, diuretic, antiurolithic, analgesic, anti-inflammatory and hepatoprotective properties and may be utilized for the preparation of different medicines.

Keywords: Blood biochemistry; CCl₄ toxicity; *Digitalis purpurea*; haematology; histopathology.

INTRODUCTION

Digitalis purpurea belongs to the family Scrophulariaceae and are distributed in Europe, Western Asia and the Mediterranean region (Mehlika *et al.* 2009). *D. purpurea* is a valuable drug in treatment of irritable heart along with palpitation due to overwork, heart strain, arrhythmia, moderate degrees of ventricular dilatation and cardiac asthenia (Bhowmik *et al.* 2010).

For the last ten years our group is working on this plant to explore its hidden medicinal properties now we are reporting it's some *invivo* effects on rabbits' kidney, stomach, heart and liver. This plant is rich in cardiac and steroidal glycosides, volatile oil, fatty matter, starch, sugar, gum (Nesher *et al.* 2007; Lungeanu *et al.*

* Corresponding Author Email: mehjbn1@gmail.com Contact: 0321-8954232 Received on: 13-12-2014 Revised on: 02-04-2015 Accepted on: 07-04-2015 1963), mineral content (Boron, Chromium, Manganese, Cobalt, Nickel, Copper, Arsenic and Lead (Negi *et al.* 2012).

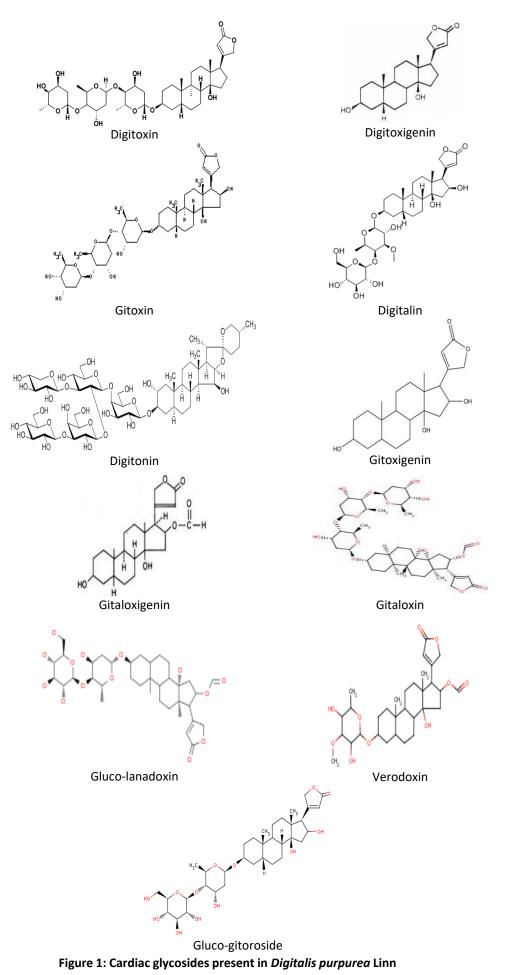
MATERIAL AND METHODS

Plants collection

D.purpurea mother tincture (Willmer Schwabe, Germany; Lot no. 2010207) was purchased from homeopathic drug suppliers. The extract obtained was stored in cool, dry place for further studies.

Chemicals & Reagents

All the chemicals and reagents used were of analytical grade and purchased from Merck (Germany).



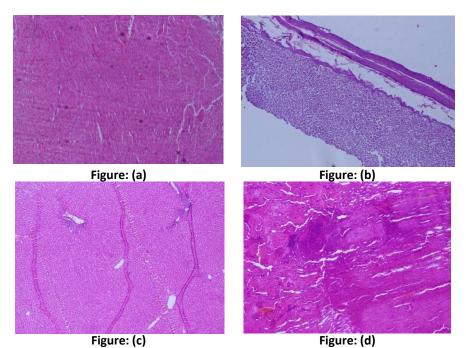


Figure 2: a, b, c, d Shows the Histo-pathology of Group II treated with D. Purpurea extract for 90 days

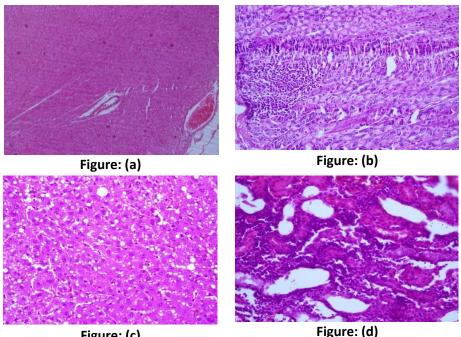


Figure: (c)

Figure 3: a, b, c, d Shows histo-pathology of group IV treated with D. purpurea extract for 90 days, then injected CCl4 six hours prior to dissection

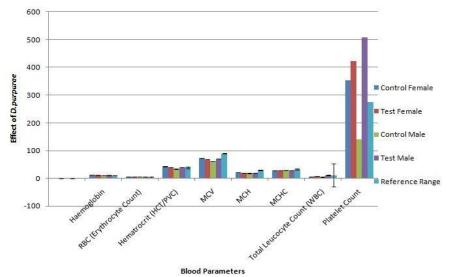
Experimental Animals

The rabbits of both sexes, having 1.5kg weight were purchased from Animal House of Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Karachi and kept in animal house for a period of 15 days to acclimatize. Male and female rabbits were kept in separate cages and fed with their normal diet and water. Their weights werechecked on random basis. The drug was administered at the interval of 24 hours for a period of 3 months. The blood of the rabbits was taken by cardiac puncture at the end of 3 month.

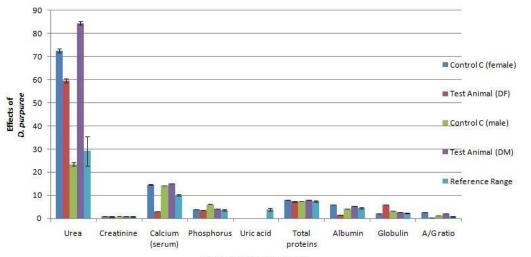
Animal grouping and drug dosing for hematological and biochemical evaluation

Four groups were made (male control - 6 rabbits), (female control – 6 rabbits), (male test (DM) – 6 rabbits) and (female control (DF) – 6 rabbits). Male and female control groups were given distil water, while test groups DM and DF were given 25mg/kg D. purpurea. All the administrations were given orally.

The treatment continued for 90 days. Blood (6 ml) was collected by cardiac puncture with 10 ml sterile syringe

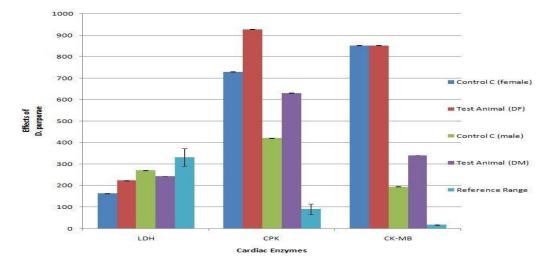


Graph 1: Shows the effect of *D. Purpurae* extract on the blood parameters of rabbit in comparison with the control



Kidney Function Parameters

DF = Female rabbits treated with *D. purpurea* extract; DM =Male rabbits treated with *D. purpurea* extract Graph 2: Shows the effect of *D. Purpurae* extract on the Kidney function parameters of rabbit in comparison with the control



DF = Female rabbits treated with *D. purpurea* extract; DM =Male rabbits treated with *D. purpurea* extract Graph 3: Shows the effect of *D. purpurea* extract on the Cardiac enzymes of rabbit in comparison with the control

Control				
Female	Test Female (DF)	Control Male	Test Male (DM)	Reference Range
12.15±0.0836	11.08 ± 0.11	10.05±0.0836	11.1±0.105	10.75±0.689
5.895±0.00836	5.668±0.013	5.485±0.00836	5.525±0.00836	3.916±0.277
42.835±0.0739	38.95±0.0836	34.2±0.0632	38.75±0.0836	38.67±1.932
72.416±0.0658	68.8±0.0632	62.5±0.836	69.85±0.0836	89±3.183
20.835±0.0739	19.25±0.0836	18.15±0.0836	19.95±0.0836	30.167±1.180
28.783±0.0658	28.25±0.0836	29.05±0.0836	28.25±0.0836	32.5±0.836
6.05±0.0836	8.05±0.0836	5.5±0.0632	10.783±0.0658	11±1.673
353.5±0.836	423.5±0.836	140.5±0.836	508.5±0.836	275±41.83
	Female 12.15±0.0836 5.895±0.00836 42.835±0.0739 72.416±0.0658 20.835±0.0739 28.783±0.0658 6.05±0.0836	Female (DF) 12.15±0.0836 11.08±0.11 5.895±0.00836 5.668±0.013 42.835±0.0739 38.95±0.0836 72.416±0.0658 68.8±0.0632 20.835±0.0739 19.25±0.0836 28.783±0.0658 28.25±0.0836 6.05±0.08366 8.05±0.0836	Female (DF) 12.15±0.0836 11.08±0.11 10.05±0.0836 5.895±0.00836 5.668±0.013 5.485±0.00836 42.835±0.0739 38.95±0.0836 34.2±0.0632 72.416±0.0658 68.8±0.0632 62.5±0.836 20.835±0.0739 19.25±0.0836 18.15±0.0836 28.783±0.0658 28.25±0.0836 29.05±0.0836 6.05±0.0836 8.05±0.0836 5.5±0.0632	Female (DF) (DM) 12.15±0.0836 11.08±0.11 10.05±0.0836 11.1±0.105 5.895±0.00836 5.668±0.013 5.485±0.00836 5.525±0.00836 42.835±0.0739 38.95±0.0836 34.2±0.0632 38.75±0.0836 72.416±0.0658 68.8±0.0632 62.5±0.836 69.85±0.0836 20.835±0.0739 19.25±0.0836 18.15±0.0836 19.95±0.0836 28.783±0.0658 28.25±0.0836 29.05±0.0836 28.25±0.0836 6.05±0.0836 8.05±0.0836 5.5±0.0632 10.783±0.0658

Table 1: Shows the effect on Complete Blood Count of Rabbits with and without D. Purpurea extract. A dose of 25 mg/kg was given each day for 1.5 months

DF = Female rabbit treated with drug; DM = Male rabbit treated with drug

Table 2: Shows the effect on Kidney Function Parameters of Rabbits with and without D. Purpurea extract. Adose of 25 mg/kg was given each day for 1.5 months

Biochemical Parameters	Control C (female)	Test Animal (DF)	Control C (male)	Test Animal (DM)	Reference Range
Urea	72.5±0.83	59.5±0.836	23.5±0.83	84.5±0.83	29.167±6.39
Creatinine	0.85±0.008	0.78±0.01	0.85±0.0083	0.83±0.01	0.8167±0.127
Calcium (serum)	14.59±0.063	2.895±0.0083	14.17±0.0083	15.03±0.01	10.03±0.318
Phosphorus	3.825±0.068	3.595±0.0083	6.195±0.0083	4.206±0.009	3.53±0.318
Uric acid	0.0175±0.004	0.014±0.0019	0.165±0.0083	0.063±0.007	3.916±0.639
Total proteins	8±0.02	7.27±0.01	7.495±0.0083	7.95±0.016	7.467±0.347
Albumin	5.83±0.013	1.393±0.0096	4.305±0.0083	5.285±0.0083	4.5±0.28
Globulin	2.153±0.0096	5.87±0.01	3.185±0.0083	2.605±0.0083	2.35±0.146
A/G ratio	2.715±0.0083	0.245±0.0083	1.35±0.016	2.035±0.0083	0.75±0.052

DF = Female rabbits treated with drug; DM = Male rabbits treated with drug

Table 3: Shows the effect on Cardiac Enzymes Parameters of Rabbits with and without D. Purpurea extract

Biochemical Parameters	Control C (female)	Test Animal (DF)	Control C (male)	Test Animal (DM)	Reference Range
LDH	163.5±0.836	223.5±0.836	270.5±0.83	243.5±0.836	331.67±40.34
СРК	729.5±0.83	927.5±0.836	421.5±0.83	630.5±0.836	90.33±25.03
CK-MB	852.5±0.83	852.5±0.836	194.5±0.83	340.5±0.836	16.67±2.46

DF = Female rabbits treated with drug; DM = Male rabbits treated with drug

using 1mg/1ml EDTA as anticoagulant for the determination of blood and biochemical parameters.

Animal grouping and drug dosing for histopathological examination

Four groups were made namely group me (positive control), group II (male test group without CCI_4), and group III (Negative control) and group IV (male test group with CCI_4)

Group 1 (Positive control): Six animals were kept as male positive control. Water and food was provided to the animals during the whole period of experiment.

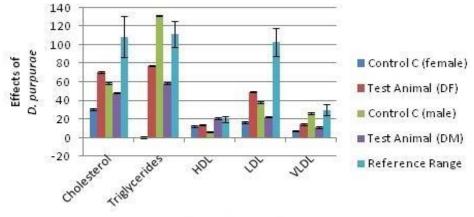
Group 2 (without CCl₄ group - male test group): Six animals were administered 0.025gm of Test drug ex-

tract, water and food was provided to the animals during the whole period of experiment.

Group 3 (Negative control): Six animals were kept as male negative control. Water and food was provided to the animals during the whole period of experiment.

Group 4 (with CCl₄ group – male test group): Six animals were administered 0.025gm of Test drug extract, water and food was provided to the animals during the whole period of experiment.

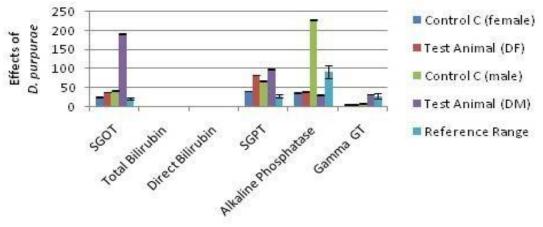
The animals were sacrificed at the end of 90 days after taking out blood through cardiac puncture technique for the above mentioned tests. Carbon tetrachloride was injected 6 hours before taking blood for carrying out liver function test to group III & IV by cardiac puncture and sacrificing (Lucas *et al.* 2004). Animal studies



Lipid Profile Parameters

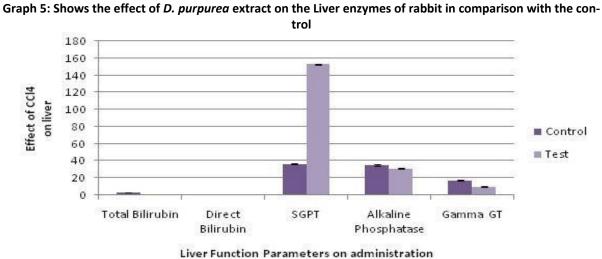
DF = Female rabbits treated with *D. purpurea* extract; DM = Male rabbits treated with *D. purpurea* extract

Graph 4: Shows the effect of *D. purpurea* extract on the Lipid profile parameters of rabbit in comparison with the control



Liver enzymes

DF = Female rabbits treated with D. purpurea extract; DM = Male rabbits treated with D. purpurea extract



of D. purpurae (after 3 months)

DF = Female rabbits treated with D. purpurea extract; DM =Male rabbits treated with D. purpurea extract

Graph 6: Shows the effect of injection of CCl₄ six hours prior to dissection on liver enzymes of Group 4 rabbits that were treated with *D. purpurea* (25mg/day) for 90 days.

were carried out according to Ethical Principles and Guidelines for Experiments on Animals formulated jointly by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences and the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

Hematological evaluation

Total erythrocyte counts were counted using a Neubar chamber under a light microscope at 40 x 10magnifications. Blood samples were diluted to 200 times by Hayem's reagent before counting. Blood hemoglobin concentration was determined using a Sahli's hemometer. Micro Wintrobe hematocrit tubes and hematocrit centrifuge were used to determine the (PCV). Total leucocyte counts were detected using a Neubar chamber under a light microscope at 10 x 10 magnification after diluting blood samples to 10 times with Turk's solution. Mean erythrocyte volume (MCV), mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH) and mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC) for particular blood samples were calculated using hematological data as mentioned by Burnett et al.(2006); differentiation of leucocytes was carried out according to IVANOVA 1983Determination of the relative abundance of all the cell types was carried out by counting total of 200 blood cells (Zorriehzahra et al. 2010).

Biochemical evaluation

Serum samples were obtained by centrifugation of blood at 1300xg for 15 min. The Menarini Classic Chemistry Analyzer was used to determine the calcium (Ca), phosphorus (P), blood urea, creatinine, total bilirubin, total protein, albumin, alkaline phosphatase (ALP), aspartate amino transferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), creatine phosphokinase (CPK), cholesterol, glucose, amylase, and gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT). The globulin concentration was determined by subtracting the albumin Concentration from the total protein concentration (Amadori *et al.* 1997)

Histo-pathological Analysis

The liver, kidney, heart and stomach tissues were dehydrated separately with ethanol of graded concentrations. The tissues were passed through xylene solution to clear the ethanol and facilitate molten paraffin wax infiltration (55°C). After that, they were treated with paraffin wax and cast into blocks sections of 5μ m thickness were cut with microtome. These were later placed on clean glass slide.

The sample slides were subsequently stained in haematoxylin-eosin and examined under a light microscope, photomicrographs of the samples were recorded using an Olympus Research Microscope (model BX51) (Aliyu *et., al.* 2007, Buncharoen *et al.* 2012).

Statistical analysis

Results of the study were presented as a mean plus or minus standard error of mean (Mean \pm SEM).Differences between control and treatment

groups were analyzed by student t-test (Snedecor and Cochran 1967).

RESULTS

Moderate increase in hemoglobin (11.1 ± 0.105), RBC count (5.525 ± 0.00836), hematocrit (38.75 ± 0.0836), MCV (69.85 ± 0.0836), MCH (19.95 ± 0.0836) and total leucocyte count (10.783 ± 0.0658) was found. Platelet count (508.5 ± 0.836) was significantly elevated. While MCHC level (28.25 ± 0.0836) was slightly decrease (Table 1, Graph 1)

Slight decline in hemoglobin (11.08 ± 0.11), RBC count (5.668 ± 0.013), hematocrit (38.95 ± 0.0836), MCV (68.8 ± 0.0632), MCH (19.25 ± 0.0836) and MCHC (28.25 ± 0.0836) levels were found in female test group treated with *D. purpurea* in comparison to the respective control female group. However, elevation was observed in white blood cells (8.05 ± 0.0836) and platelet count (423.5 ± 0.836) of the test group as compared to the control group (Table 1, Graph 1).

The levels of urea (84.5 \pm 0.83), serum calcium (15.03 \pm 0.01), total protein (7.95 \pm 0.016), albumin (5.285 \pm 0.0083), A/G ratio (2.035 \pm 0.0083) were raised while creatinine (0.83 \pm 0.01), phosphorus (4.206 \pm 0.009), uric acid (0.063 \pm 0.007) and globulin (2.605 \pm 0.0083) were declined in male test group treated with *D. purpurea* extract in comparison to control male group (Table 2, Graph 2).

Globulin (5.87±0.01) level was slightly raised. While the rest of the kidney function parameters were lowered in female test group treated with *D. purpurea* extract; Urea (59.5±0.836), creatinine (0.78±0.01), serum calcium (2.895±0.0083), phosphorus (3.595±0.0083), uric acid (0.014±0.0019), total protein (7.27±0.01), albumin (1.393±0.0096), A/G ratio (0.245±0.0083) when compared with its respective control group (Table 2; Graph 2)CPK (630.5±0.836) and CK-MB (340.5±0.836) enzymes were raised, while LDH (243.5±0.836) levels were lowered in the test group treated with *D. purpurea* extract in comparison to male rabbit's control group (Table 3,Graph 3).

LDH (223.5 \pm 0.836) and CPK (927.5 \pm 0.836) levels were elevated while CK-MB (852.5 \pm 0.836) enzyme level was lowered in the female test group treated with *D. purpurea* as compared to its female control group (Table 3, Graph 3).

HDL (21.167 \pm 1.036) levels were raised while the rest of the lipid profile parameters, Cholesterol (48.5 \pm 0.836), Triglycerides (58.5 \pm 0.836), LDL (22.5 \pm 0.836) VLDL (11.167 \pm 1.036) were declined in the male treated group with *D. purpurea* extract in comparison to its respective male control group (Table 4, Graph 4).

Triglycerides (77.5 \pm 0.836), HDL (14 \pm 0.632), LDL (49.5 \pm 0.836), VLDL (14.5 \pm 0.836) levels were raised while the cholesterol level was lowered in female

Biochemical	Control	Test Animal	Control	Test Animal	Reference
Parameters	C (female)	(DF)	C (male)	(DM)	Range
Cholesterol	30.5±0.83	70.5±0.836	58.5±0.83	48.5±0.836	109.16±22.24
Triglycerides	0.5±0.83	77.5±0.836	131.5±0.83	58.5±0.836	111.67±13.68
HDL	12.5±0.83	14±0.632	6.5±0.83	21.167±1.036	19.67±3.18
LDL	16.5±0.83	49.5±0.836	38.5±0.83	22.5±0.836	103.33±15.14
VLDL	7.5±0.83	14.5±0.836	26.5±0.83	11.167±1.036	30±5.83

Table 4: Shows the effect on Lipid Profile Parameters of Rabbits with and without <i>D. Purpurea</i> extract
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DF = Female rabbits treated with drug; DM = Male rabbits treated with drug

Table 5: Shows the effect on Liver Enzymes Parameters of Rabbits with and without D. Purpurea extract. Adose of 25 mg/kg was given each day for 1.5 months

Biochemical Parameters	Control C (female)	Test Animal (DF)	Control C (male)	Test Animal (DM)	Reference Range
SGOT	26.5±0.83	38±0.632	42.5±0.83	191.5±0.836	21.83±3.11
Total Bilirubin	0.275±0.0083	0.225±0.00836	0.265±0.0083	0.28±0.0063	1.75±0.083
Direct Bilirubin	0.021±0.005	0.035±0.0083	0.041±0.0065	0.065±0.0083	0.029±0.0008
SGPT	41.5±0.83	83.5±0.836	68.5±0.83	98.5±0.836	27.5±4.18
Alkaline Phosphatase	37.5±0.83	40.5±0.836	228.5±0.83	31.5±0.836	91.67±17.30
Gamma GT	6.5±0.83	6.5±0.836	9.5±0.83	33±0.632	29.16±6.39

DF = Female rabbits treated with drug; DM = Male rabbits treated with drug

Specimen	Control Male (C - male)	Test Male DM	
Heart	No significant pathology is seen.	No significant pathology is seen.	
Stomach	No significant pathology is seen.	No significant pathology is seen.	
Liver	Mild portal inflammation and periportal fibro-	Mild portal inflammation and periportal fibro-	
	sis.	sis.	
Kidney	Chronic nonspecific pyelonephritis.	Chronic nonspecific pyelonephritis.	

Table 7: Shows the effect on Carbon tetrachloride on Liver Enzymes of Rabbits with and without D. Pur-purea extract

Liver Function Test Parame- ters	Control (M±SEM)	Test (M±SEM)
Total Bilirubin	2.88±0.007	0.08±0.0063
Direct Bilirubin	0.12±0.0063	0.02±0.0056
SGPT	36.5±0.836	153±0.632
Alkaline Phosphatase	35±0.632	31±0.632
Gamma GT	17±0.632	10±0.632

treated group with *D. purpurea* extract in comparison to control female rabbits group (Table 4, Graph 4).

All the liver enzymes, SGOT (191.5 \pm 0.836), Total Bilirubin (0.28 \pm 0.0063), Direct Bilirubin (0.065 \pm 0.0083), SGPT (98.5 \pm 0.836), Gamma GT (33 \pm 0.632) were raised, while alkaline phosphatase (31.5 \pm 0.836) level was lowered in the male treated group with *D. purpurea* extract when compared to its respective male control group (Table 5 Graph 5).

There was slight decline in total bilirubin level (0.225 \pm 0.00836). However, SGOT (38 \pm 0.632), direct bilirubin (0.035 \pm 0.0083), SGPT (83.5 \pm 0.836) and alkaline phosphatase (40.5 \pm 0.836) parameters were found

raised in *D. purpurea* extract treated female test group when compared with its female control group(Table 5, Graph 5).

In male group treated with *D. purpurea* extract, no substantial pathology was found in heart and stomach tissues. Mild portal inflammation and peri-portal fibrosis was observed in liver tissues whereas chronic non-specific pyelonephritis was seen in kidney tissues (Table 6, Figure 1).

Group 4 treated with *D. purpurae* extract for three months were administered carbon tetrachloride 1.5ml before taking out blood via cardiac puncture for LFT. Only SGPT level was found significantly raised (153±0.632). While rest of the liver enzymes; total bi-

Table 8: Shows the effects on histological specimens of female rabbits with and without D. Purpurae extract. a dose of 25 mg/kg was given each day for three months. Carbon tetrachloride was given IM prior to dissection

Specimen	Control female (C – female)	Test Female DF			
Heart	No significant pathology is seen.	No significant pathology is seen.			
Stomach	No significant pathology is seen.	Chronic nonspecific gastritis. No H Pylori.			
Liver	No significant pathology is seen.	Mild portal inflammation and peri-portal fibrosis with focal steatosis and centri-lobular hepatocytic degeneration.			
Kidney	No significant pathology is seen.	Moderate ATN (acute tubular necrosis) and mild tubule-interstitial nephritis. No evidence of granuloma or malignancy is seen			

DF= female rabbits treated with *D. Purpurea*

lirubin (0.08 ± 0.0063), direct bilirubin (0.02 ± 0.0056), alkaline phosphatase (31 ± 0.632) and gamma GT (10 ± 0.632) were found lowered as compared to the control group (Table 7, Graph 6).

Histo-pathology of group IV treated with *D. purpurea* extract for 90 days, then injected CCl4 six hours prior to dissection

a) Microscopic Examination of Heart

Sections show wall of heart composed predominantly of thick myocardium consists of bundles of cardiac muscle fibers separated by fibrous band, forming syncytium. Nuclei of myocytes are centrally located. Endocardium is lined by single layer of mesothelial cells resting on a basement membrane. No significant pathology is seen in any of the sections examined.

b) Microscopic Examination of Stomach

Sections show wall of gastric mucosa with intact architecture. The gastric mucosa is thrown into gastric pits and folds revealing well organized glandular structures. Foci of lymphocytic infiltrate are seen at places forming lymphoid aggregates. Underlying sub mucosa is scanty and in unremarkable. Well organized muscular layer is seen beneath, lined externally by serosa. No *H. Pylori*. No evidence of metaplasia or dysplasia is seen.

c) Microscopic Examination of Liver

Sections show liver tissue with overall preserved lobular architecture. Portal tracts are mildly dilated with lymphocytic infiltrate and minimal fibrosis. Foci ormacrovesicular steatosisseen Centrilobular hepatocytic degeneration also noted, Nsiderosis, No cholestasis, No evidence of granuloma or malignancy is seen.

d) Microscopic Examination of Kidney

Sections show renal tissue composed of cortex and medulla. Glomeruli are within normal limits. Moderate degree of acute tubular necrosis and mild tubulointerstitial nephritis are seen. Vascular structures are distributed evenly. No evidence of granuloma or malignancy is seen in any of the sections examined.

The Histo-pathology of Group II treated with *D. purpurea* extract for 90 days

a) Microscopic Examination of Heart

Sections show wall of heart composed predominantly of thick myocardium consists of bundles of cardiac muscle fibers separated by fibrous band, forming syncytium. Nuclei of myocytes are centrally located. Endocardium is lined by single layer of mesothelial cells resting on a basement membrane. No significant pathology is seen in any of the sections examined.

b) Microscopic Examination of Stomach

Sections show wall of gastric mucosa with intactarchitecture. The gastric mucosa is thrown in to gastric pits and folds revealing well organized glandular structures. Underlying submucosa is scanty and in unremarkable. Well organized muscular layer is seen beneath, lined externally by serosa. No significant pathology is seen in any of the sections examined.

c) Microscopic Examination of Liver

Sections show liver tissue with overall preserved lobular architecture. Portal tracts are mildly expanded with lymphocytic infiltrate and minimal fibrosis. No significant lobular inflammation seen. No siderosis No cholestasis, No evidence of granuloma or malignancy is seen.

d) Microscopic Examination of Kidney

Sections show renal tissue composed of cortex and medulla. Glomeruli are within normal limits. Lymphocytic infiltrate is seen in the tubule-interstitial compartment. Vascular structures are distributed evenly. No evidence of granuloma or malignancy is seen in any of the sections examined.

No substantial pathology was observed in heart tissues of the group 4 treated with *D. purpurea*. Chronic nonspecific gastritis was found in stomach tissues. In liver tissues, mild portal inflammation and peri-portal fibrosis with focal steatosis and centri-lobular hepatocyticdegeneration was seen. Whereas, in kidney tissues, moderate ATN (acute tubular necrosis) and mild tubule-interstitial nephritis (Table 8, Figure 2).

DISCUSSION

As we have already mentioned that this research work is a part of our detailed studies on

D. Purpurea. This plant has potent anthelmintic, molluscicidal, insecticidal and anti-oxidant activity (Ahmad *et al.* 2013 a, b; Ahmad *et al.* 2014). Here we are reporting the *in vivo* studies on blood parameters, kidney function parameters, cardiac enzymes and histopathology of the sensitive organs to a drug for example liver, stomach, kidney etc.

It is a well-known drug of cardiac failure and is also reported as cardio tonic (promotes and stimulates the activity of heart muscle tissues), improves blood flow to the kidneys and aids in removing any obstructions there thus improving urination (Lindholm *et al.* 2002). Side by side it is poisonous and fatal in high doses due to the presence of cardiac glycosides especially digoxin and digitalin (Figure 3) (McGuffin *et al.* 1997). Now referencing to our histopathology results they support it in this regard but at low doses (Figure 1 & 2).

In case of blood parameters, no significant changes in blood biochemistry and histopathology were found. Our results showed no malignancy in the tissues of heart, liver, kidney and stomach upon treated with 25 mg of *D. Purpurae* for 90 days alone and in the group treated with *D. Purpurae* (25mg) for 90 days and then administered CCl₄ six hours prior to dissection. Negligible cell degenerative changes were observed in the liver and kidney tissues of rabbit as compare to high doses. *D. Purpurae* treated group injected CCl₄ preserved the cellular architecture that shows it protective property from damaging (Rabadia *et al.* 2014).

From our results it can be concluded that *D. Purpurea* is a multidisciplinary action drug for example it balances the blood parameter, provides protection properties to kidney, stomach and liver, and maintains the cardiac enzymes. It also causes toxicity in high or over doses.

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