**In Vitro** Phytochemical Screening, Anti-Inflammatory and **In Vivo** Anti-Depressant, Anxiolytic Activities of Methanolic Extract of *Leea aequata* (leaves)

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**ABSTRACT**

The core aim of the current research study was expose the *in-vitro* Anti-Inflammatory along with *in-vivo* Anxiolytic actions of methanolic extract of the *Leea aequata* Leaves under the family of Vitaceae. Leaves of the plant *Leea aequata* were collected from KEPZ Hill tract area, KEPZ, Chittagong, Bangladesh in the month of January 2018. This has been created that plants which also naturally synthesis as well as collect some of the secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, volatiles oils, glycosides, tannins, as well as contain minerals and also vitamins, have medicinal properties. Mainly phytochemical test of plant extract must be prepared for ensuring the existence of bioactive constituents of plant extract. This is primary phase of plant for work. Later than screening of phytochemicals of plants, it can presume the next phases what must to do with the plant extract. Here after screening of the *Leea aequata* it was observed positive results for the carbohydrates, Phytosterols, Flavonoids, Phenols, Tannins in addition to Saponins which must be good signs for advance research study with this plant. Here the plant *Leea aequata* having improved result on *in vitro* Anti-Inflammatory effect in Egg Albumin assessment. It has enhanced neuropharmacological value also. It also demonstrates superior effect on Anti-Depression in addition to anxiolytic

**INTRODUCTION**

The plant that have therapeutic actions or wield beneficial pharmacological outcomes on animal bodies are usually assigned as “Medicinal Plants”. While there is no perceptible morphological property in medicinal plants producing with them, so far they have several special qualities that create them medicinally so important. Plant is someone of the huge number of life forms within biological kingdom of Plantae; generally, these classes are regarded as of partial motility as well as generally produce their individual food. They comprise a host of well-known organisms together with trees, grasses, forbs, shrubs, vines, ferns in addition to mosses [1]. Traditionally the word plant implies that a taxon with properties of multicellularity, cell structure along with walls holding cellulose in addition to organisms competent of photosynthesis [2]. The plant *Leea aequata* is usually used in tribes regions for Astringent, Antipyretic, Anthelmintic, Alexisetric [3]. This is also helpful in Bronchitis, Dyspepsia, Anaesthesia of the skin, Bilious fever, Itching, Leprosy, Tuberculous and Ulcer. This is also recognized as a Kakjanga in the Bengali [4]. As it is known that inflammation is the complex method which is normally associated with the pain and involves incidences like the raise of the vascular permeability, raise of the protein denaturation in addition to membrane alteration [5]. Cells in body are harmed by microbes, chemical agents, physical agents, the damage is in form stress. Inflammation of the tissue is because of reply to stress [6]. Loss of task happens depends on site in addition to extent of the injury [7]. In view of the fact that inflammation is one of body’s nonspecific inner systems of resistance, the reaction of the tissue to accidental hack is analogous to the reply that consequences from other sorts of tissue injure, reasoned by burns because of heat, radiation, viral or bacterial
attack [8]. The duration of an nervous feeling can for a while be out of the proportion to original trigger, Physical symptoms like enlarged blood pressure in addition to nausea, can also happen to evident [9]. These answers move further than anxiety into anxiety disorder. So anxiety disorders happen when a result is out of the proportion to what might usually be supposed in a condition [10]. The main aim of the present research work was find out the In-vitro Anti-Inflammatory and In-vivo Anxiolytic properties of the methanolic extract of *Leea aequata* Leaves (Figures 1 & 2) & (Tables 1 & 2).

![Figure 1: Percent of protein inhibition of *Leea aequata* with compare to standard Diclofenac Na.](image1)

![Figure 2: Effect of the Methanolic extract of *Leea aequata* on tail suspension test.](image2)

| S. no. | Test Name       | Observation |
|-------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1     | Molish Test     | ++          |
|       | Carbohydrate Test | +          |
|       | Benedict Test   | +           |
|       | Fehling A&B     | -           |
| 2     | Mayer Test      | +           |
|       | Alkaloid Test   | +           |
|       | Wagners Test    | +           |
| 3     | Glycosides Test | -           |
| 4     | Phytosterol Test| +           |
| 5     | Phenolic Test   | ++          |
| 6     | Flavoniods Test | ++          |
| 7     | Protein Test    | -           |
| 8     | Saponins Test   | +           |
| 9     | Tannins test    | +           |

Note: showed in (Table-3).
(+)= Present,(++)= Rapidly present
(-) = Absent.
Table 2: Anti-inflammatory activity of *Leea aequata*.

| Sl. No. | Concentration µg/ml | Test Control Abs. | Test Solution Abs. | % of Protein By Extract | % of Protein By Diclofenac |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1       | 50                  | 0.499             | 0.224             | 55.1                   | 38                       |
| 2       | 100                 | 0.499             | 0.309             | 38                     | 47.5                     |
| 3       | 200                 | 0.499             | 0.353             | 29.25                  | 58.5                     |
| 4       | 400                 | 0.499             | 0.412             | 17.43                  | 82                       |
| 5       | 800                 | 0.499             | 0.483             | 3.2                    | 94                       |

Materials and Methods

Animals

Mice weighing about 28-32 gm aged about 1.5 month were purchased from animal house of Department of Pharmacy, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. All the animals were acclimatized to new environment for a period of one week. During the test period the animals were kept in a well ventilated animal house at 25°C. They were supplied with standard pellets and fresh drinking water. All the mice were kept in cage and maintained with natural 12h light and dark cycle.

*In-vitro Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Leea Aequata*

Egg Albumin Denaturation Method

The anti-inflammatory activity of methanolic extract of a plant was studied using the following procedure was followed by many authors [11] for evaluating the Percentage of inhibition of protein denaturation (Figure 1). The reaction combination was consisting of trial extract at unusual concentrations. pH of reaction combination was regulated using small quantity of 1N HCl. The trials were hatched at the 37ºC for 20 min. in addition to heated for 57ºC for 2 min. Later than cooling the trials, turbidity was determined by spectrophotometrically at the 416 nm [12]. The test was done triplicate. The percentage (%) inhibition of the protein denaturations were considered as follows:

\[
\text{% of Inhibition} = \left(1 - \frac{A_i}{A_o}\right) \times 100
\]

Where,

- \(A_o\) = Absorbance of the control
- \(A_i\) = Absorbance of the sample

Preparation of the Phosphate Buffer Saline (pH 6.3)

1. Transfer 8 g of NaCl, 0.2 g of KCl, 1.44 g of dipotassium hydrogen phosphate and 0.24 gram of the potassium di-hydrogen phosphate to a one liter standard flask
2. Dissolve in 800 ml of DW water.
3. Adjust the PH to 6.3 using 1N Hydrochloric acid and framework the volume to 1000 ml with the distilled water (DW).

Preparation of Control Solution (50 ml)

2 milliliter of egg albumin, 28 milliliter of phosphate buffer (pH 6.4) and 20 ml distilled water.

Preparation of Standard Drug (50 ml)

It consists of 2 ml of egg albumin, 28 ml of phosphate buffer and various concentration of standard drug (Diclofenac Na) concentration of 100, 200, 400 and 800 µg/ml.

Preparation of Test Solution (50 ml)

It consists of 2 ml of egg albumin, 28 ml of phosphate buffer and various concentration of plant extract concentration of 100, 200, 400 and 800 µg/ml.

Procedure

50 ml various concentrations (800,400,200,100 µg/ml) of test solution and standard drug diclofenac sodium solution (800,400,200,100 µg/ml) were taken respectively. The samples were keep warmed at 37°C for 20 minutes and heated at 70°C for the five minutes.

The absorbance was measured using UV-Visible spectrophotometer at 660 nm.

The control signifies 100% of the protein denaturation. The consequences were balanced with the diclofenac sodium. The percentage reticence of the protein denaturation can be computed as.

In-Vivo Antidepressant Test

Tail Suspension Test (TST): The end suspension technique used in study was analogous to those mentioned by some authors [4]. Treatment was provided 60 min prior to the study as mentioned by study design. Mice were shelved on edge of table, 50 cm higher than the floor, with help of the adhesive tape positioned around 1 cm from tip of tail. The total extent of immobility persuaded by end suspension was evidenced throughout 6 min of 10 min.
period. Animal was regarded as to be immobile at what time it did not confirm any progress of body, hanged inactively and entirely motionless [5].

Forced Swim Test (FST): For forced swim test (FST), mice of either gender were separately forced to the swim in open cylindrical pot its is diameter 10 cm, height 25 cm holding 19 cm of water at the 25±1°c. Treatment was provided 60 min prior to the study as mentioned by the study design. Animals were forced to the swim for 7 min in addition to the extent of the immobility was monitored and determined during final 5 min interval of test. Here each mouse was the judged to be motionless when this ceased struggling in addition to remained floating immobile in water; making those associations to stay its head on top of water. A reduce in duration of quiet is pinpointing of the antidepressant effect (Table 3) [5].

Table 3: Effect of the Methanolic extract of Leea aequata on anti-depression test on tail suspension test in mice. Values are expressed as mean ± S.E.M., (n = 6).

| Group | Treatment | Dose | Immobile time (s) |
|-------|-----------|------|-------------------|
| control | 1% tween 80 solution | 10ml/kg,po | 205.90±0.00 |
| Standard | Imipramine | 10mg/kg,ip | 82.05±0.00 |
| Test | MELA | 200mg/kg,po | 134.33 |
| Test | MELA | 400mg/kg,po | 45.66 |

MELA=Methanolic Extrac of Leea aequata.

In-vivo Anxiolytic Activity of Leea Aequata: Depending on mechanism, techniques for evaluation of the anti-inflammatory activity of samples can be determined by following two ways:

a. Hole board test
b. Elevated plus maze test

Hole Board Test (HBT)

Procedure: The method mentioned by some authors [4] was approved for testing the Central Nervous System (CNS) movement of the methanol fruits extract of the plant. The research study was performed using the wooden hole-board measuring 20 centimeter by 40 cm with 16 consistently spaced holes and each of diameter is 3 cm. The equipment was raised to the height of 25 centimeter. 30 minutes later than treatment, mice were situated singly on center of board in addition to number head dipping as well as latency until first entrance was calculated using counter during the 5 min test period [4].

Elevated Plus Maze (EPM) Test Method: Animals were evaluated, numbered in addition to separated into five sets, each consisting 06 mice. One set was employed as control (like saline), second for typical drug (like diazepam) treatment of 3rd 4th. As well as 5th set for the coriandrum extract for the treatment (like Test - 50 mg/kg, 100 mg/kg and 200 mg/kg). Animals were positioned separately in center of maze, and head facing on the way to the open arm in addition to stopwatch was initiated. The following constraints were recorded for the 5 min. First penchant of the mouse to the open or the closed arm. The number of accesses in the open arm. The average time of every animal uses in the open arm was estimated. Saline in addition to diazepam were inserted to control in addition to standard groups correspondingly. The coriandrum of extract was inserted to test groups. Later than 30 min and animals were situated separately in center of maze. Lastly, it was compared preference of animals to the open or the enclosed arm and average time used in the open arm.

Results and Discussion

Phytochemical Screening

The qualitative phytochemical screening was performed to ensure the presence or absence of secondary plant metabolites. In our investigation we have found positive results for carbohydrates, Alkaloids, Phytosterol, Phenol, Flavonoids, Tannins and Saponins. The result showed in (Table 3).

(+)= Present,(++)= Rapidly present
(-) = Absent.

In-vitro Anti-inflammatory Activity

The plant extract inhibited the protein denaturation by from a lowest 5% when conc. was 125 µg/ml. To the highest % of inhibition was 35% when concentration was 1000 µg/ml as compared to standard drug diclofenac Na inhibited by 82% at 1000 µg/ml.

Anti-Depressant Activity

Test of Tail Suspension: Here test animals indulgenced with two doses of MELA 200 and 400mg/kg. Showed decreases in their serenity times and which was important 134.33±0.00 and 45.66±0.00 correspondingly when evaluated with the control (like 205.90±0.00). Likewise, animals indulgenced with Imipramine (like 10mg/kg), as anticipated, showed a important decrease in immobility time (like 82.605±0.00).

Force Swim Test

(Figure 3) The possible anti-depressant effect of MELA after oral administration was studied in the forced swimming test. In this trial animals indulgenced with two doses of MELA 200 and 400mg/kg, showed decreases in their immobility times, which was significant.
111.88±4.56s and 84.88±3.61s respectively, when compared with control 194.27±4.80s. Likewise, animals indulgenced with Imipramine 10mg/kg, as anticipated, showed a important decrease in immobility time 88.66±2.93s.

Figure 3: Effect of the Methanolic extract of *Leea aequata* on Force swim test.

Anxiolytic Activities

**Hole Board**: The possible Anxiolytic effect of MELA after oral administration was studied in the Hole board test (Figures 4 & 5). In this trial animals indulgenced with two doses of MELA 200 and 400mg/kg, showed increase in their number of head dipping, which was significant 33.66±0.00s and 45.33±0.00s respectively, when compared with control 26.33±0.00s. Similarly, animals treated with Diazepam 10mg/kg, as anticipated, showed a important increase in the No. of head dipping 88.66±0.00s.

Figure 4: Effect of the Methanolic extract of *Leea aequata* on Force swim test.

Figure 5: Effect of the Methanolic extract of *Leea aequata* on Elevated Plus Maze (EPM) test.
Elevated Plus Maze (EPM): The possible Anxiolytic effect of MELA after oral administration was studied in the Elevated Plus Maze (EPM) test. In this test animals treated with two doses of MEBA 200 and 400mg/kg, showed in their time of Open arm, which was significant 24.6±0.00s and 37.3±0.00s respectively, when compared with control 9.3±0.00s. Similarly, animals treated with Diazepam 10mg/kg, as expected, showed a significant time of their close arm 43.3±0.00s.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this well-informed study evaluated significant phytochemical screening (Table 1) in-vitro Anti-Inflammatory and In-Vivo Anti-Depressant properties of the methanolic extract of Leea aequata at different doses (Tables 4-6). The plant contains a lot of major groups of organic compounds. According to study of the results and discussions of this plant extract it is prove that the plant may be a source of effective herbal drug. Although, All pharmacological profile were not performed for a single plant further improvements on such techniques and advancements in the procedure could be acquired through careful and systemic methods and hence requires advance new supplementary approaches. If possible more precise studies are needed to elucidate their mechanism of actions for individual photochemical.

Table 4: Effect of the Methanolic Extract of Leea aequata on anti depression test on force swim test in mice. Values are expressed as mean±S.E.M., (n=6).

| Group    | Treatment   | Dose , rout | Immobility time (s) |
|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Control  | Water       | 10ml/kg, po | 194.27±4.80         |
| Standard | Imipramine  | 10mg/kg, ip | 88.66±2.93          |
| Test     | MEBA        | 200mg/kg, po| 111.88±4.56         |
|          | MEBA        | 400mg/kg, po| 84.88±3.61          |

MELA=Methanolic Extract of Leea aequata.

Table 5: Effect of the Methanolic Extract of Leea aequata on anxiolytic test on Hole board test in mice. Values are expressed as mean±S.E.M, (n=6).

| Group    | Treatment | Dose , rout | Immobility time (s) |
|----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|
| Control  | Water     | 10ml/kg, po | 26.33±0.00          |
| Standard | Diazepam  | 10mg/kg, ip | 65.55±0.00          |
| Test     | MEBA      | 200mg/kg, po| 33.66±0.00          |
|          | MEBA      | 400mg/kg, po| 45.33±0.00          |

MELA=Methanolic Extract of Leea aequata.

Table 6: Effect of the Methanolic Extract of Leea aequata on anxiolytic test on Elevated Plus Maze (EPM) test in mice. Values are expressed as mean±S.E.M, (n=6).

| Group    | Treatment | Dose , rout | Immobility time (s) |
|----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|
| Control  | Saline (NaCl) | 10ml/kg, po | 9.3±0.00            |
| Standard | Diazepam  | 10mg/kg, ip | 43.3±0.00           |
| Test     | MEBA      | 200mg/kg, po| 24.66±0.00          |
|          | MEBA      | 400mg/kg, po| 37.33±0.00          |

MELA=Methanolic Extract of Leea aequata.

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