Original Research Article

Antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic effects of crude fractions and isolated compound from *Striga orobanchioides* Benth on streptozotocin induced diabetic rats

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**A B S T R A C T**

**Background:** *Striga orobanchioides* Benth is a traditionally used Ayurvedic medicinal plant for the treatment of diabetes. Scientific validation of the claim is studied in this research. The significant bioactivity of the plant components is obligatory for its use in medicine.

**Objective:** The present work is to extract bioactive fractions and chemicals, biological activity of the chemicals and to identify potentially bioactive compound(s) from ethanolic extract of the plant.

**Materials and methods:** Ethanolic extract of the authenticated plant was fractionated and subjected to in vitro and in vivo antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity. *In vitro* a-amylose and a-glucosidase enzyme activity was carried out on digestive enzyme. Streptozotocin (STZ) induced diabetes mellitus in rats model was preferred for *in vivo* activity where antidiabetic parameters body weight, urine volume, blood glucose level, glycosylated hemoglobin, serum insulin, liver glycogen and lipid profile as an antihypertensive parameters were assessed. Isolation of bioactive compounds was carried out by chromatographic techniques and identification of the compound was done by FTIR, Mass spectrometry and NMR spectroscopy. The molecular docking study with a-amylose, a-glucosidase, dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP-IV), glucokinase (GK) as diabetic markers and on 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) and Niemann-Pick C1-Like 1 (NPC1L1) was carried out.

**Results:** Ethyl acetate-methanol fraction of the ethanol extract showed presence of pentacyclic triterpenoids (81.5% w/w) in GC-HRMS study. Spectroscopic analysis of the isolated compound revealed the presence betulin. *In vitro* antidiabetic activity pointed out robust inhibition of the digestive enzymes by the fractions known as bioactive fraction and betulin. Betulin at a dose of 40 mg/kg treated group showed significant improvement of diabetic conditions. The gene expression studies revealed that betulin in 40 mg/kg dose has positive effects for carbohydrate metabolism in liver, lowers the hepatic inflammation and increases insulin secretion. The plant compound demonstrated significant inhibitory potential on a-amylose, a-glucosidase, DPP-IV and GK enzymes in silico.

**Conclusion:** The biological study reveals that betulin could dominate the succession of diabetes in dose dependent manner. The plant and specifically Betulin exerts a significant antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic effects that are more possibly through stimulation of insulin secretion, increase in PPAR-a level with an increase in GRIA2 mRNA expression.

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1. Introduction

Numerous plant bioactive compounds have been demonstrated to possess functional capabilities used as a complementary treatment for a number of ailments, that implies its role in the prevention of a wide variety of chronic diseases and most of them are described in Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani system of medicines [1]. The potential constituents are found in approximately 70,000 distinct species of plants in which almost 3000 plant species have been found in India [2]. Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic condition that results in an elevation of the body’s blood glucose levels due to insufficient insulin or the insulin that is produced is ineffectively...
utilized [3,4]. Multiple cells are damaged by hyperglycemia, resulting in impairment and pathological impairment to organs such as the pancreas, heart, liver, and kidney. Numerous medicinal herbs have been used in the Ayush method of therapy for the regulation of a variety of health problems in conjunction with DM. Striga orobanchioides Benth belonging to family Scrophulariaceae, is a scrounger herb, abide on the roots of several herbs such as Euphoria antiguorum, Lepidagathis and Dysophylla [5,6]. In Ayurveda, the plant is narrated as an antidiabetic herb [7–10]. It shows presence of alkaloid, tannins, glycosides, carbohydrates, proteins and flavonoids in the ethanolic extract [11]. The extract is reported to have antidiabetic [12]. antibacterial [13] and antihistaminic, and mast cell stabilizing activities [14], also two known flavonoids, apigenin and luteolin, have an antifertility properties [15]. The ethanolic extract of plant was also screened for in vitro and in vivo antioxidant properties which reported to stop the generation of the advanced glycation end products, responsible for the pathogenesis of diabetes [16]. Recently, the investigations indicate that entanglement of antioxidants in food or as a medicament is a substitute for the cure of diabetic issues. The plant domain provides dormant provenance of antioxidant drugs which needs rigorous enslavement [17].

There is range of oral antidiabetic drugs available now a days. Additionally, parenteral Insulin showed remarkable controlling blood sugar level. Despite of availability of such synthetic drugs for diabetes and hyperlipidemia, number of side effects and not receiving complete recovery from the diseases remain a big question [33]. Alternative therapies are in demand in recent years including Ayurveda, homeopathy, unani, and others [31,32]. Some of them showed better result in some patients. These therapy uses plant as a major source of their treatment, the line of treatment may be different. The overall reported investigation suggests that the plant has potential to treat diabetes as reported in ayurveda, traditional medicine and few of the scientific investigation [32]. The mechanism of action of the plant for the activity is not yet clear as well as responsible compound for the activity need to investigate to bring this plant in use as a medicine. Therefore present study aimed to investigate antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity of plant and separation of bioactive compound through bioassay guided fractionation strategy. In vitro enzyme essay, in vivo antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity of the plant fractions, separation and identification of bioactive compound and in silico study has been preferred to investigate the plant.

2. Materials and methods

The experimental protocol was approved by institutional animal ethical committee; Proposal number: ARCMR/PIMS/IAEC/1801.

2.1. Drugs and chemicals

Streptozotocin (Biogenuix Medsystems Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi), metformin (Merck, Germany), α-amylase, α-glucosidase enzyme, starch, Dinitrosalicylic acid, p-nitrophenyl-β-D-glucopyranoside, and acarbose were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (Merck KGaA Life science, India). The other chemicals like petroleum ether, chloroform, ethanol, methanol, ethyl acetate, sodium citrate dihydrate, benzene, citric acid, hydrochloric acid, sodium chloride, potassium chloride, and calcium chloride of analytical grades were purchased from PCL, India. Glucose-oxidase peroxidase kit and Accu check glucometer were purchased from Roche diabetes care Inc.

2.2. Plant material and animals

The whole plant of Striga orobanchioides was obtained from Pimpnarne Mountain, Sangamner, Maharashtra and was authenticated by Dr. Wabale Anil Sopanrao, Head of Department of Botany, PVP College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Pravaranagar, Maharashtra, India, vide letter number PVP/2018–19-HD-45 dated 28/08/2018, Specimen no. SRV 123. The animals and food was purchased from Lacsymi Biofarms Pvt. Ltd., Pune.

2.3. Extraction and fractionation of plant materials

The 1000 gm of dried and coarse powder of the whole plant was extracted with ethanol in a Soxhlet extractor for complete extraction [18]. The extract was filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and dried in desiccator. The ethanolic extract designated as SEE (20 gm) was subjected to fractionation by gradient elution method using mobile phase benzene, benzene:ethyl acetate (5:5), ethyl acetate, ethyl acetate:methanol (5:5)and methanol. All the fractions were subjected for TLC using various mobile phases as benzene, chloroform:ethyl acetate (9:1), toluene:ethylacetaete:methanol (7:2:1) [19]. Benzene:ethyl acetate (5:5) fraction described as SEBEF and Ethyl acetate:methanol fraction of the ethanolic extract (SEEMF) was yielded higher quantity. SEEMF (5 gm) was subjected for column chromatography by gradient elution method using mobile phases chloroform:ethyl acetate (8:2), chloroform:ethylacetate:methanol (7:2:1), chloroform:methanol (6:2:2), chloroform:methanol (7:3). All the fractions were subjected for TLC. One compound was separated from the chloroform:ethyl acetate (8:2) sub-fraction (CEF) of SEEMF and purified.

2.4. Identification of bioactive compound

To identify the bioactive compounds present in CEF, gas chromatograph with high resolution mass spectrophotometer was carried out using gas chromatography apparatus (Agilant,7890) with FID detector, head space injector and combipal auto sampler. The compound was further analyzed by FTIR (JASCO, Japan) and NMR (02 h discovery, Bruker) [35]. Bioactive compound was identified and analyzed by GCHRMS, FTIR and NMR methods.

2.5. Antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity of plant extract, fractions and isolated compound

Ethanol extract and major fractions of the extract was studied for antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity by in vitro and in vivo study. The isolated compound from the sub-fraction was identified and designated as BET. In vitro study on α-amylase and α-glucosidase enzyme and in vivo study in STZ-induced diabetic rats was carried out. Different parameters were assessed in vivo.

2.5.1. In vitro antidiabetic activity on α-amylase enzyme

SEE, SEBEF, SEEMF, and isolated bioactive compound were subjected for α-amylase and β-amylase enzyme assay [20]. The experiment was carried out in triplicate. Acarbose was used as a standard (50–300 μg/mL) to validate the results. The samples of SEE, SEBEF, SEEMF, and BET (Betulin) (50–300 μg/mL) were treated with 50 μl phosphate buffer (pH 6.8), 10 μl α-amylase (2 U/mL in 20 mM PBS buffer) and were incubated for 30 min at 25 °C. Further, 20 μl of % soluble starch as a substrate was added (dissolved in 20 mM phosphate buffer, pH 6.8) and further incubated at 37 °C for 30 min. DNS color reagent 100 μl was added and the reaction mixture was allowed to react at 95 °C for 10 min. The absorbance of resulting mixture was measured at 540 nm using UV-spectrophotometer. The control was same as above mentioned reaction, without SEE, SEBEF, SEEMF, and BET [21]. The percent inhibition was calculated by the formula as ((Abs control – Abs sample) x 100)/((Abs control).
2.5.2. In vitro antidiabetic activity on α-glucosidase enzyme

Different concentrations (50–300 μg/mL) of SEE, SEBEF, SEEMF, and BET were added to tube containing 50 μl of 20 mM phosphate buffer (pH 6.8), 10 μl α-glucosidase, 1 U/mL of 20 mM PBS and were incubated at 37 °C for 15 min. The catalytic reaction was begin by adding 20 μl of 5 mM p-NPG and incubated at 37 °C for 20 min. The reaction was ended by adding 50 μl of 0.1 M sodium carbonate (Na2CO3) and the absorbance was recorded at 405 nm using UV-spectrophotometer. The % of inhibition was calculated [21].

2.5.3. In vivo antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity in STZ-induced diabetic rats

Male wistar rats, weighing 250–300 gm were used for screening of antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity. The specific laboratory conditions were maintained for animals and were nourished with specific rodent nourishment and water ad libitum. The animals were maintained at constant temperature (22 ± 2 °C), humidity (55%) and light-dark cycle (12/12 h). After an overnight fasting, diabetes was induced in rats by single intra-peritoneal injection of STZ dissolved in 0.1 M sodium citrate buffer (pH 4.5) at a dose of 55 mg/kg body weight (b.w.). The animals were allowed for free access of food and water, after injection of STZ. The animals were allowed to drink 5% glucose solution overnight to overcome the hypoglycemic shock for 18 h. The development of diabetes was confirmed by measuring blood glucose level on fifth day of STZ injection. The animals having fasting blood glucose levels more than 250 mg/dl were considered as diabetic and used for experimentation. The experimental rats were indiscriminately divided into eleven groups of six animals each and treated for 20 days.

As per literature survey, it was found that acute toxicity study of ethanolic extract of striga plant is studied [14] and also it was found that ethanolic extract of striga plant is studied for anti-oxidant activity [16] and effective dose for anti-oxidant activity was found to be 100 mg/kg. So, two dose levels 50 mg/kg and 100 mg/kg b. w. were selected for the study according to standard method. Betulin was given at dose of 20 mg/kg and 40 mg/kg [34].

NC (Normal control) group in which rats maintained on regular food and drinking water ad libitum, DC (Diabetic control) grouping which rats maintained on regular food and drinking water ad libitum, PC (positive control) group in which rats treated with standard drug metformin (150 mg/kg b.w.), SE50 and SEE100 groups in which diabetic rats were treated with SEE at a dose of 50 and 100 mg/kg b.w. respectively, SEBEF50 and SEBEF100 in which rats were treated with SEBEF at a dose of 50 and 100 mg/kg b.w. respectively, SEEMF50 and SEEMF100 groups in which diabetic rats were treated with SEEMF at a dose of 50 and 100 mg/kg b.w. respectively, BET20 and BET40 in which diabetic rats were treated with BET at a dose of 20 and 40 mg/kg b.w. respectively. The above mentioned groups were subjected to study the different biochemical and enzymatic parameters to monitor antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activities of the samples.

The parameters such as BW (body weight), VU (urine volume), BGL (blood glucose level), HbA1C (glycosylated hemoglobin), INS (serum insulin), and LG (liver glycogen) were estimated to study the anti-diabetic potential of the extract. All the parameters were determined on days 1, 5, 10, 15 and 20, during the experiment. The BWs were calculated using digital balance in all the groups. VU was determined by collecting urine at 5 h interval. BGL was estimated by tail flick method using glucometer. Following ether anesthesia, blood was collected from the animals’ retro-orbital sinus, and the HbA1C concentration was determined. On day one and day twenty of the experiment, the HbA1C was determined using an automated biochemistry analyzer. Plasma insulin level was determined using insulin radioimmunooassay with ELISA kit (Linco Research, Inc., St. Charles, MO). Additionally, blood was taken in dried test tubes and allowed to coagulate at ambient temperature for 30 min at 2000 rpm for 10 min and the resultant translucent liquid was utilized to investigate TC (total cholesterol), TG (triglycerides), HDL (high density lipoprotein), LDL (low density lipoprotein), and VLDL (very low density lipoprotein), ALP (alkaline phosphatase), SGOT (serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase), SGPT (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase) by following the manufacturer’s instructions (Sigma Aldrich Merck KGA Life science, India).

On day 20 of the study, pancreases were isolated and homogenized in Tris HCl buffer (pH 7.4) and centrifuged at 12000 rpm for 30 min at 4 °C. The antioxidant enzymes activities were performed by the standard procedures with little bit alterations, as per the previous methods [22,23]. The supernatants from plasma and pancreases were collected and utilized to perform assays and to determine the actions of various antioxidant enzymes as, CAT (catalase), SOD (superoxide dismutase), GPx (glutathione peroxidase), and GST (glutathione-S-transferase).

2.6. Histopathological studies

The pancreases and the liver of all the groups were isolated, eradicaded and washed using ice-cold saline solution after sacrificing the animals by cervical dislocation. Pieces of both were stored in a 10% formalin solution. Paraffin sections of both the tissues were pigmented using hematoxylin and eosiin for histopathological studies using a light microscope [36].

2.7. RT-PCR to study the mRNA expression of IRS2, PPARα, and GRIA2

RT-PCR (Real-time polymerase chain reaction) was used to study the mRNA expressions of IRS2 (insulin receptor substrate-2), PPARα (peroxisome proliferator activated receptor-α), and GRIA2 (glutamate ionotropic receptor AMPA-2). Total RNA from liver tissues of all groups was separated using kit (Qiagen RNA isolation kit, Germany) as the procedure described by the manufacturer. 1 μg of RNA was used for cDNA synthesis along with oligoDTs to a final volume of 20 μl (Qiagen cDNA synthesis kit, Germany) as per guidelines by the manufacturer. Primers of IRS2, PPARα and GRIA2 were commercially obtained from Qiagen, Germany. qPCR (Roche, USA) was used to perform gene expression study by diluting 1 μl of cDNA (10 μl reaction with 1X SYBR green, 0.5 μl of each primer) on an Mx3000 P instrument (Stratagene, Cedar Creek, TX, USA). Central control used was Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH). Following parameters were used to carry out single step RT-PCR as; primary denaturation at 95 °C for 3 min, followed by 50 cycles of denaturation at 95 °C for 5s, 60 °C for 40s, and 72 °C for 40s. To quantify the results of qPCR, the ΔΔCt method was used [37,38].

2.8. Statistical analysis

The final findings were reported as mean ± standard error mean (SEM) or standard deviation (SD). Graph Pad Prism 8.02: one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by student t-test was used to investigate the statistical analysis of all the data. Statistical significance between drug-treated groups and negative control group was calculated by Dunnett’s comparison test (p < 0.05 was considered as significant).

2.9. Molecular docking (MD)

The Autodockvina 1.1.2 in PyRx-Virtual Screening Tool 0.8 and the Biovia Discovery studio was used to perform MD [24,25]. The Structure of betulin (SDF File) was downloaded from the official website of the US National Library of Medicine PubChem [https://

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The energy minimization was performed by Universal Force Field (UFF). The crystal structures of the enzymes were obtained from the RCSB Protein Data Bank [https://www.rcsb.org/]. 3D structures with PDB IDs of the enzymes are illustrated in Fig. 10. For the MD simulation, the three-dimensional grid box of known size (Alpha Amylase, size_x = 54.3200Å, size_y = 65.5343Å, size_z = 56.4905Å; Alpha Glucosidase, size_x = 49.5962Å, size_y = 52.8182Å, size_z = 79.2698Å; DPP-IV, size_x = 58.8950Å, size_y = 67.5143Å, size_z = 66.6780Å; GK, size_x = 57.4468Å, size_y = 65.5343Å, size_z = 66.6780Å; HMG CoA, size_x = 78.5046Å, size_y = 61.6466Å, size_z = 79.2698Å; NPC1L1, size_x = 41.7237Å, size_y = 57.6876Å, size_z = 47.7393Å) was adjusted (to define area for interactions) with exhaustiveness value of 8.

3. Results

3.1. Extraction and fractionation of plant materials

The column chromatography of SEBEF and SEEMF were higher in yield of about 4.9% and 5.3%, respectively.

| Sr. No. | RT     | Area            | Mass            | Base peak | Derivatives/Compounds                      |
|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------------------------|
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Pentacyclic triterpenoid derivative       |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Furancarboxaldehyde                       |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Pyrone derivatives                        |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Mannose                                   |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Estriol derivative                        |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Octadecanoic acid                         |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Betalin                                   |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Hexadecanoic acid ethyl ester             |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Octadecanoic acid C_{1}H_{2}O_{2}          |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Octadecanoic acid ethyl ester             |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Hexadecanoic acid -2-methyl propyl ester  |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | n-tetracosanol                            |
|        |        |                 |                 |          | Disiosteryl ester of benzene carboxylic acid diamer |

3.2. Characterization of extract, fractions and bioactive compound of the plant

See Table 1.

3.3. Antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity of plant extract, fractions and isolated compound

See fig. 1.

3.3.1. In vitro antidiabetic activity on α-amylase and α-glucosidase enzymes

See fig. 2.

3.3.2. In vivo antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity in STZ-induced diabetic rats

See Table 2, 3, 4, and 5.

3.4. Histopathological studies

See Figs. 3 and 4.
3.5. RT-PCR to study the mRNA expression of IRS2, PPARa, and GRIA2

See Table 6.

3.6. Molecular docking (MD)

See Table 7 and 8, fig. 5.

4. Discussion

Authenticated and powdered whole plant extracted with ethanol and produced 22% yield. 20 gm of SEE was further fractionated and obtained two fractions SEBEF and SEEMF in desirable amount which were subjected for animal activity to obtained bioactive fraction. The column chromatography of SEE found that amongst all the fractions, SEBEF and SEEMF were higher in yield. In TLC of SEBEF and SEEMF, it showed two and three spots respectively. SEEMF column chromatography revealed that CEF showed only one spot on TLC with the highest percentage yield of 1.3% amongst all the fractions. The SEEMF showed the presence of the highest percentage of pentacyclic triterpenoid derivatives at retention time (RT) of 48.97 with 81.5% in GCHRMS study and lower percentage of pyrone derivatives, estriol derivatives, octadecanoic acid, furancarboxaldehyde and mannose were observed (Table 1). The GCHRMS chromatogram of CEF showed that at RT 19.24 possesses compound base peak value at m/z 189, and major peaks at m/z 95, 135, 205, 234 present in 25.8% w/w. FTIR analysis (Fig. 1A) and NMR analysis (Fig. 1B) confirmed the structure (Fig. 1C) of isolated compound as betulin. Fig. 1 confirmed the structure of isolated, compound Betulin. The peak at m/e 429 reflects the molecular ion peak. The mass peak at m/e 430 represents C=C cleavage and m/e at 431 represents the CH3 bending. These peaks gave tentative idea of the compound with its fragments. FTIR spectral analysis provided data for functional group characterization of the compound. The important characteristics of the alkane group are shown with stretching frequency 2888 cm⁻¹. The presence of CH2 bending in the molecule is interpreted by 1512 cm⁻¹. C==C stretching are interpreted at frequency 2114 cm⁻¹. Another diagnostic frequency of IR regions are C=O at 994 cm⁻¹, -OH at 2312 cm⁻¹, C-H bending at 780 cm⁻¹. The proton NMR study was final interpretation of the compound which was carried out in CDCl3 solvent. There are about eleven types of peak observed in the molecule. The down field peaks at singlet shifted to 4.75 ppm, singlet shifted to 4.68 ppm and doublet shifted to 4.6 ppm gave idea about aromatic protons. Peaks observed were doublet at 3 ppm, multiplet at 2.13–2.46 ppm, multiplet at 2.14–2.3 ppm, multiplet at 1.8–2.1 ppm, multiplet at 1.5–1.7 ppm, duplet at 1.4 ppm, multiplet at 1.11–1.3 ppm and triplet at 1–1.1 ppm. Based on spectroscopic study of the compound, Betulin was identified as isolated compound from the fraction.

The enzyme inhibition activity of samples were compare with acarbose as shown in Fig. 2. BET exhibited the highest % inhibition and showed 146.10 μg and 151.60 μg Ic50 value in α-amylase (Fig. 2A) and α-glucosidase (Fig. 2B) enzyme inhibition activity assay respectively. The Ic50 value of SEE, SEBEF and SEEMF was found to be 191.50 μg, 296.00 μg, and 149.90 μg, respectively in α-amylase assay whereas 193.50 μg, 280.40 μg, and 185.10 μg, respectively in α-glucosidase enzyme assay. The Ic50 values for standard acarbose was found to be 118.50 μg and 107.50 μg in α-amylase and α-glucosidase enzyme inhibition activity assay (Figure 2A and B) respectively.

The animals in groups received respective samples were studied for 20 days on day 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, and different parameters were assessed. Changes in BGL, BW and Vu were studied for anti-diabetic activity and TC, TG, HDL, LDL, VLDL for anti-hyperlipidemic parameters. During study period DC animals showed significant (p < 0.001) change in these parameters. BET20 and BET40 treated groups showed significant decrease (p < 0.001) in BGL, Vu, and significant increase in BW of animals compared to metformin treated groups (Table 2). Our study divulged that in DC groups, TC, TG, LDL and VLDL levels was increased whereas HDL level was decreased (Table 3). The results obtained by treatment with SEBEF were not significant, whereas significant results were obtained by treatment with BET20 and BET40. Hepatic function test was carried out to check the levels of liver damage markers (Table 3). In DC group, the level of liver enzymes ALP, SGOT, SGPT was increased. This level was significantly decreased by treatment with BET40 when compared with DC animals. On day 20 of the treatment with BET40 and metformin treated group showed significant dose dependent increase in INs level than other treatment groups (Table 3). The disclosure of hepatic glucose metabolic enzymes and LG contents are outlined in Table 2. The DC group animals showed decreased levels of hepatic glucose metabolic enzymes and LG. Treatment with BET showed dose dependent significant increased levels of LG, activities of glucokinase, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, glucose-6-phosphatase, and fructose-1, 6-biphosphatase. Treatment with metformin and BET40 showed highly significant results than that of other treatment groups. HbA1C content was checked for all the groups on day 1 and day 20 of the study (Table 2). It was observed that on day 1 of study, all treatment group animals were having high percentage of HbA1C. After the treatment, the HbA1C percentage was significantly reduced in BET40 treated group compared with metformin treated.
Table 2
Effect of plant samples on BGL, BW and HbA1C as an antidiabetic parameters.

| Parameter   | Day | NC   | DC   | SEEO5 | SEEO10 | SEEBEF50 | SEEBEF100 | SEEMF50 | SEEMF100 | BET20 | BET40 |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-------|--------|----------|------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| BGL (mg/dl) | 1   | 82.62| 287.23| 289.6| 278.25| 278.08| 278.65| 280.85| 278.86| 277.24| 277.55| 279.99|
| BW (g/dl)   | 10  | 238.79| 514.42| 529.22| 502.75| 518.97| 535.77| 552.90| 547.83| 539.12| 539.70| 542.99|
| HbA1C (%)   | 20  | 1.38 | 0.14 | 5.72 | 0.29 | 3.19 | 0.75 | 3.04 | 1.80 | 1.45 | 2.87 | 4.87 |

Table 3
Effect of plant samples on different parameters (TG and TC, LDL, VLDL and HDL, Liver damage markers and Insulin level).

| Parameters   | Day | NC   | DC   | SEEO5 | SEEO10 | SEEBEF50 | SEEBEF100 | SEEMF50 | SEEMF100 | BET20 | BET40 |
|--------------|-----|------|------|-------|--------|----------|------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Insulin (µU/ml) | 1   | 18.02| 0.29 | 7.07 | 0.2 | 7.16 | 0.22 | 7.06 | 0.31 | 7.22 | 0.27 | 7.19 | 0.35 |
| TC (mg/dl)   | 20  | 63.65| 0.83 | 175.9| 1.27 | 75.28 | 0.96 | 169.6| 1.11 | 159.13| 3.37 | 170.50| 2.69 |
| TG (mg/dl)   | 20  | 65.38| 0.34 | 190.17| 5.13 | 96.74 | 1.23 | 188.86| 2.86 | 171.83| 4.92 | 170.63| 4.77 |
| HDL (mg/dl)  | 20  | 14.98| 0.89 | 10.66| 0.44 | 14.09 | 0.61 | 12.15| 0.37 | 12.52 | 0.19 | 11.47 | 0.26 |
| LDL (mg/dl)  | 20  | 25.23| 1.18 | 94.79| 0.8 | 31.46 | 0.33 | 78.28| 3.34 | 80.05 | 3.49 | 81.89 | 3.54 |
| VLDL (mg/dl) | 20  | 14.94| 0.18 | 28.96| 0.67 | 15.74 | 0.33 | 24.29| 1.25 | 25.53 | 0.99 | 26.71| 1.46 |

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group, rather SEE100 gave less significant results whereas, SEBEF100 and BET20 gave moderate significant results. BET recovered HbA1C percentage level in more amount in dose dependent manner when compared with diabetic control rats.

The effects of plant samples on Catalase, SOD, GPx, and GST (Table 5) in plasma and pancreas were recorded. DC group showed significant lower levels of activities of enzymatic antioxidants in circulation and pancreas, whereas after treatment with BET40, activities of enzymatic antioxidants were significantly increased in dose dependent manner Table 4.

The histopathological observations of pancreas and liver tissue samples are given in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. In pancreatic tissue (Fig. 3C) PC showed deformation of common aspects of islets of Langerhans. The majority of acinus cavities disclosed acinar injury characterized by cytoplasmic vacuolization and cell withering. Broad intra- and interlobular channels of ducts were observed. BET20 (Fig. 3J) showed almost typical structure of islets of Langerhans. The acinus cell modification was less stringent. The boundary line between exocrine and endocrine segments became more definite.

The liver tissue samples (Fig. 4) disclose that the NC (Fig. 4A) group showed the normal microscopic scrutiny of the liver islets and showed lenient congestion with nuclear abridgment. The re-

Table 4

| Parameters | NC | DC | PC | SEE50 | SEE100 | SEBEF50 | SEBEF100 | SEEMF50 | SEEMF100 | BET20 | BET40 |
|-----------|----|----|----|-------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Glucokinase (u/h/mg protein) | 0.65 ± 0.19 ± 0.58 ± | 0.25 ± 0.26 ± 0.23 ± | 0.22 ± 0.25 ± 0.27 ± | 0.28 ± 0.56 ± |
| Glucose-6-phosphatedehydrogenase (BUL) | 4.82 ± 1.89 ± 4.26 ± | 2.08 ± 2.61 ± 1.91 ± | 1.98 ± 2.13 ± 2.58 ± | 2.63 ± 4.25 ± |
| Langerhans. The little empty space in the basal region of acinus cells. BET40 (Fig. 3K) showed it divulged rejuvenation of islets of | | | | |
| pancreatic tissue (Fig. 3C) PC showed deformation of common aspects of islets of Langerhans. The majority of acinus cavities disclosed acinar injury characterized by cytoplasmic vacuolization and cell withering. Broad intra- and interlobular channels of ducts were observed. BET20 (Fig. 3J) showed almost typical structure of islets of Langerhans. The acinus cell modification was less stringent. The boundary line between exocrine and endocrine segments became more definite.

The liver tissue samples (Fig. 4) disclose that the NC (Fig. 4A) group showed the normal microscopic scrutiny of the liver islets and showed lenient congestion with nuclear abridgment. The re-

Table 5

| NC | DC | PC | SEE50 | SEE100 | SEBEF50 | SEBEF100 | SEEMF50 | SEEMF100 | BET20 | BET40 |
|----|----|----|-------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Catalase (Pancreas) micromoles of H2O2 utilized/mg of protein | 6.86 ± 2.48 ± 5.89 ± | 2.47 ± 4.54 ± | 2.25 ± 2.87 ± 2.94 ± | 4.58 ± 4.67 ± | 5.19 ± |
| Fructose 1,6 bis phosphatase (umol of Pi liberated/mg of protein) | 0.179 ± 0.309 ± 0.205 ± | 0.275 ± 0.232 ± 0.293 ± | 0.291 ± 0.288 ± 0.247 ± | 0.229 ± 0.212 ± |
| Fructose 1,6 bis phosphatase (umol of Pi liberated/mg of protein) | 0.19 ± 0.19 ± 0.089 ± 0.16 ± 0.1* ± 0.13 ± 0.1 ± 0.28 ± 0.13* ± 0.095* ± 0.16*** |
| Glycogen (mg/g liver) | 21.56 ± 10.47 ± 19.14 ± | 10.51 ± 11.81 ± 10.55 ± | 10.61 ± 10.75 ± 11.84 ± | 11.89 ± 18.91 ± |

The values are expressed as mean ± SEM, n = 6. *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001 indicates the significant difference between DC and treatment groups.

Table 6

| Gene | NC | DC | PC | SEE50 | SEE100 | SEBEF50 | SEBEF100 | SEEMF50 | SEEMF100 | BET20 | BET40 |
|------|----|----|----|-------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Gpim | 0.49 ± 0.18 ± 0.4 ± 0.01*** | 0.26 ± 0.02* | 0.28 ± 0.03** | 0.22 ± 0.01 | 0.23 ± 0.01 | 0.24 ± 0.02 | 0.29 ± 0.04** | 0.3 ± 0.03*** | 0.38 ± 0.01*** |
| Gpx | 46.09 ± 22.22 ± 37.83 ± 0.59*** | 22.9 ± 0.83 | 28.06 ± 1.57* | 22.57 ± 0.93 | 28.31 ± 1.29* | 27.17 ± 1.47 | 27.95 ± 2.16* | 29.57 ± 2.5** | 36.98 ± 0.7*** |
| Gpx | 35.37 ± 15.84 ± 29.25 ± 0.55*** | 16.72 ± 0.82 | 22.84 ± 2.17** | 17.37 ± 0.48 | 21.68 ± 1.4* | 17.2 ± 0.29 | 22.98 ± 2.1** | 23.46 ± 2.19** | 28.67 ± 0.69*** |
| Sod | 5.34 ± 2.42 ± 4.43 ± 0.2** | 2.47 ± 0.23 | 3.69 ± 0.46 | 2.07 ± 0.23 | 3.75 ± 0.51 | 2.87 ± 0.09 | 3.72 ± 0.42 | 4.01 ± 0.52* | 4.38 ± 0.34** |
| Sod | 9.32 ± 4.23 ± 8.06 ± 0.14*** | 4.29 ± 0.15 | 5.81 ± 0.23** | 4.14 ± 0.23 | 4.32 ± 0.25 | 4.34 ± 0.22 | 5.83 ± 0.24** | 5.87 ± 0.76** | 7.97 ± 0.23*** |
Fig. 3. The histopathological observations of pancreas tissue samples.

Fig. 4. The histopathological observations of liver tissue samples.
rmsd/lb have been selected as best model of inhibition. The 2D- and 3D-docking poses of betulin with all the enzymes are represented in Table 8. The enzymes are shown in Fig. 5.

In the investigation of the striga plant, betulin, a pentacyclic triterpenoid derivative isolated from bioactive fraction exhibits more efficacious antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity at 40 mg/kg in the STZ-induced diabetic rat model. A bioactive compound identified from CEF GCHRMS spectra was betulin with probable percentage composition of 25.8% w/w. There was no scientific evidence of the pharmacological study on the plant hence antidiabetic study on ethanolic extract was performed followed by its fractions and isolated compound. In the present investigation,

### Table 6
Effects of the samples on mRNA expression of IRS2 gene, PPARα gene, and GRIA2.

|            | NC | DC | PC | SEE50 | SEE100 | SEBEF50 | SEBEF100 | SEEMF50 | SEEMF100 | BET20 | BET40 |
|------------|----|----|----|-------|--------|---------|----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| IRS2 (Insulin Receptor Substrate-2) gene | 1.28 ± 0.04 | 0.53 ± 0.03 | 1.01 ± 0.09*** | 0.67 ± 0.02 | 0.77 ± 0.02 | 0.57 ± 0.06 | 0.64 ± 0.02 | 0.57 ± 0.06 | 0.81 ± 0.09* | 0.84 ± 0.08** | 0.99 ± 0.08*** |
| PPARα (Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor-α) gene | 1.55 ± 0.03 | 0.39 ± 0.02 | 1.48 ± 0.05*** | 0.98 ± 0.21** | 1.05 ± 0.15** | 0.55 ± 0.07 | 0.65 ± 0.11 | 0.59 ± 0.05 | 1.07 ± 0.16** | 1.09 ± 0.16** | 1.44 ± 0.06*** |
| GRIA2 (Glutamate Ionotropic Receptor AMPA-2) gene | 1.92 ± 0.06 | 0.75 ± 0.07 | 1.86 ± 0.08*** | 0.79 ± 0.06 | 1.24 ± 0.11* | 0.93 ± 0.13 | 1.22 ± 0.11* | 1.22 ± 0.09* | 1.27 ± 0.12** | 1.32 ± 0.09** | 1.73 ± 0.14*** |

### Table 7
The docking score of betulin with different enzymes.

| Enzyme Name       | Ligand Energy (kcal/mol) | Binding Affinity (kcal/mol) | rmsd/ub | rmsd/lb |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Alpha Amylase     | 1121.26                  | −9.6                        | 0       | 0       |
| Alpha Glucosidase | −8.8                     | 0                           | 0       | 0       |
| DPP-IV            | −9.6                     | 0                           | 0       | 0       |
| Glucokinase       | −7.9                     | 0                           | 0       | 0       |
| HMG CoA           | −8.5                     | 0                           | 0       | 0       |
| NPC1L1            | −7.4                     | 0                           | 0       | 0       |
SEE, SEBEF, SEEMF and BET showed stalwart inhibition of digestive enzymes \(\alpha\)-amylase and \(\alpha\)-glucosidase. It is divulged that intra-peritoneal injection of 55 mg/kg doses of STZ in adult Wistar rats influences investigational diabetes mellitus within five days [22]. In the current investigation, after administration of STZ to rats, they had accounted in expanded BGL on the fourth day, probably because of the wrecking of pancreatic islets and the death of \(\beta\)-cells. It has been proven that STZ creates diabetes by damaging glucose metabolism.
oxidation, decreasing biosynthesis and emanation of insulin [23].
STZ releases a pestilential volume of NO, which disfigurements
DNA by impeding aconitase activity, resulting in necrosis by
wrecking of β-cells [26].
DM is chiefly kindred with various metabolic disorders, out of
which lipid metabolism is remarkably contrived by elevated TC,
TG, and LDL concentration and declined concentration of HDL
[27]. In the current investigation, the altered lipid profile of
diabetic rats was found to manifest elevated TC, TG, LDL, VLDL
and declined HDL which were improved in BET treatment. These
results may be analogous with the probable defensive effect of
the polysaccharides to pancreatic β-cells, which elevates the
release of insulin to invigorate the synthesis of fatty acid and
chartering of fatty acids into TG from the liver and adipose tis-
sues Fig. 6.

In the current investigation, DC animals showed declined in-
sulin level, which was significantly elevated by the treatment with
BET40. It was maybe due to the role of insulin in managing glucose-
stimulated insulin secretion through glucose-sensing or growth of
β-cells. It is revealed that certain drugs induce hypoglycemic ac-
tivity by heightening the insulin effect, either by expanding the
pancreatic emanation of insulin from the β-cells or its reveal from
bound insulin. However, others perform by the extra-pancreatic
mechanism by retardation of hepatic glucose production or alter-
ation of insulin confrontation [28]. The level of glycolytic enzymes,
glucokinase and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase was
decreased in DC animals, maybe due to increased oxidative stress,
which indicates suppressed phosphor-gluconate pathway [29].

Molecular docking is a computational tool which enables us to
screen the molecules virtually, by which we can get preliminary

Fig. 5. 3D images of enzyme for ligand interactions.

Fig. 6. The possible molecular pharmacological changes by betulin identified from study.
activity potential of ligand against biological targets. Betulin exhibited very good inhibitory potential against many targets selected for the study. It has been reported that α-amylase contains three significant residues i.e., ASP300, GLU233 and ASP197 are present at the active site cleft which are mainly involved in the hydrolysis of glycosidal bonds present in carbohydrates [30].

In present study, Betulin inhibited the α-amylase with −9.6 kcal/mol binding affinity and formed 3 hydrogen bonds (two conventional and one carbon hydrogen) with GLU233 (2.34673 Å), ARG195 (2.41462 Å), and ASP300 (3.67748 Å). It has developed many hydrophobic (alkyl and Pi-alkyl) interactions with α-amylase. Betulin showed −8.8 kcal/mol binding affinity with α-glucosidase and formed only one conventional hydrogen bond with ASP379 (2.91937 Å). It demonstrated good number of hydrophobic interactions with α-glucosidase. Betulin has inhibited DPP-IV with −9.6 kcal/mol binding affinity and formed one conventional hydrogen bond with ASN74 (2.74401 Å). It has developed many alkyl and Pi-alkyl interactions with allosteric site. Betulin exhibited −7.9 kcal/mol binding free energy with GL and formed one conventional hydrogen bond with GLU442 (2.47646 Å). It displayed two hydrophobic interactions with ILE225 (4.90987 Å) and LYS414 (5.3197 Å).

Betulin exhibited −8.5 kcal/mol inhibitory potential against HMG-CoA. It has formed one conventional hydrogen bond with CYS526 (2.52079 Å). It has displayed −7.4 kcal/mol binding affinity with NPC1L1 but unfortunately did not formed any type of hydrogen bond with it. It has developed hydrophobic interactions with ALA260 (3.65013 Å), 4.46702 Å, 5.28745 Å, LA261 (3.62331 Å, 4.19424 Å), and ARG242 (4.94552 Å, 4.86026 Å).

5. Conclusion

The Ayurvedic, traditionally used Striga orobanchioides for diabetes are not evaluated for biological potential. In this project the plant was scientifically investigated for antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic activity. Ethanol extract, Ethyl acetate-methanol fraction and chloroform-ethyl acetate sub-fraction showed potency of reducing blood sugar level and bad cholesterol in vivo. Betulin isolated from later sub-fraction also demonstrated significant activities compare with other fractions and metformin. The in vivo antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic parameters are effectively controlled by the samples. The activity could be initiated by stimulating insulin secretion, increasing the PPAR-α level with an increase in CREAI2 mRNA expression. Betulin has demonstrated very good inhibitory potential on α-amylase, α-glucosidase, DPP-IV and GK enzymes. It also demonstrate significant in silico binding with recently studied HMG-CoA and NPC1L1 to develop novel anti-hyperlipidemic drugs. It is concluded that the plant and isolated compound Betulin obtained from bioassay guided fractionation could be effectively used to develop antidiabetic and antihyperlipidemic medicine. However further studies are essential to know other chemicals of the plant which individually or synergistically showed the activities and also important to investigate clinical study of these chemicals.

Authors contribution

Sunayana Vikhe: Conceptualization, Study design, Software, Validation, Investigation, Resources, Writing – original draft. Rahul Kunkulol: Formal analysis, Data curation, Visualization, Supervision, Project administration. Dipak Raut: Writing – review and editing, Visualization, Supervision.

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Declaration of competing interest

The authors declared no any conflict of interest.

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