

## Anthelmintic Activity of Methanolic Extract of *Strychnos colubrina* L. Bark

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### Abstract

*Strychnos colubrina* L. (Loganiaceae) is being used in traditional medicine for a variety of ailments. One successive standard and three crude extract of its barks were subjected for anthelmintic activity on adult Indian earthworm *Pherithima posthuma*. The successive methanol extract has shown potent anthelmintic activity in *Pherithima posthuma* with  $12.33 \pm 0.33$ ,  $8.00 \pm 0.58$ ,  $4.33 \pm 0.67$  as paralysis time and  $38.3 \pm 3.76$ ,  $27.21 \pm 2.18$ ,  $15.17 \pm 1.28$  as death time (mean  $\pm$  S.E.M) for 100 mg/ml, 250 mg/ml and 500 mg/ml respectively. The crude methanol has shown moderate anthelmintic activity in *Pherithima posthuma*. All the concentration prepared was paying dose dependent anthelmintic activity.

**Keywords:** *Strychnos colubrina* L.; Methanolic extracts; *Pherithima posthuma*; Anthelmintic

### Introduction

*Strychnos colubrina* L. (Loganiaceae) is a large, climbing shrub. Rare in the moist shades along ravines showed in FIG. 1. While this taxon is known to occur in Western Peninsular India covering parts of Karnataka and Kerala. The genus *Strychnos*, the largest genus of the family Loganiaceae, was first described by Linnaeus, comprises about 200 species, which may be subdivided into three geographically separated groups widely distributed around the world's tropics: one in Africa with 75 species; one in America with 73 species; and one in Asia (including Australia) with 44 species. *Strychnos colubrina* L. is a medium sized glabrous deciduous tree having a height of 6 meters to 18 meters. It is indigenous to India [1-3]. Wood is used to cure fever. Root is anthelmintic, also useful to the treatment of Rheumatism, cutaneous disorders. Fruit is used to prevent Mania [4]. The tribal people of Veligonda hills used the root part of this plant for the snake bite. The study aimed to evaluate anti helminthetic activity, in which the crude methanol has shown moderate anthelmintic activity in *Pherithima posthuma*. All the concentration prepared was paying dose dependent anthelmintic activity.



FIG.1. Plant of *Strychnos colubrina* L.

## Materials and Methods

### Collection and preparation of extracts

The plant material was collected from the plant *Strychnos colubrina* L. which are collected during the month of December at Sekuru, Guntur (Dist.) of Andhra Pradesh. Then it was authenticated by Dr. SM. Khasim, Professor, Department of Botany and Microbiology, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Nagarjunanagar, Guntur. The shade dried bark was powdered and extracted with soxhlet apparatus using hydro alcoholic (yield 5.8%).

### Chemicals and instruments

All chemicals used in the study were pure. Brewer's yeast was purchased from SD fine chemicals, Mumbai. Reference standard Albendazole obtained from Cipla Ltd., Bangalore as a free sample.

### Preliminary phytochemical screening

Preliminary phytochemical screening was performed by using standard protocol.

### Anthelmintic activity

**Experimental worms:** All the experiments were carried out in Indian adult earthworms (*Pheretima posthuma*) due to its anatomical resemblance with the intestinal roundworm parasites of human beings. They were collected from moist soil and washed with water to remove all fecal matter.

**Administration of Albendazole:** Albendazole (20 mg/ml) was prepared by using 0.5% W/v of CMC as a suspending agent as administered as per method of extract.

**Experimental method:** The anthelmintic activity was performed according to the method. On adult Indian earthworm *Pherithima posthuma* as it has anatomical and physiological resemblance with the intestinal round worm parasites of human beings. *Pherethima posthuma* was placed in Petri dish containing three different concentrations 100, 250, and 500 mg/ml of methanolic extract of bark of *Strychnos colubrina*. Each Petri dish was placed with two worms and absorbed for paralysis and death. Mean time for paralysis was noted when no movement of any sort could be absorbed except when the worm was

shaken vigorously. The time death of worm in minutes was recorded when worms neither moved when shaken nor when given external stimuli. The results were compared with reference compound albendazole (20 mg/ml) treated samples [5].

**Results and Discussion**

Anthelmintic activity was performed as per earlier procedure reported. The activity was measured with the time taken for paralysis and death of *Pheritima posthuma* (earth worm) in drug solution. This study selected three different concentrations such as 100, 250, and 500 mg/ml of methanolic extract of *Strychnos colubrina* bark. Albendazole was used as standard control. Carboxy methyl cellulose (CMC) used as negative control to find out the interference of polymer as well as with the drug in the activity. The study revealed the most significant activity at 500 mg/ml of 4.33 ± 0.67 and death time of 15.17 ± 1.28 for the drug extract and also the study observed the significant dose dependent activity at lower concentrations. The activity may be due to the presence of alkaloidal content in the methanolic extract of the drug [5]. The results were tabulated in TABLE. 1 and expressed in FIG. 2.

TABLE 1: Effect of methanolic extracts of *Strychnos colubrina* L. on *Pheretima posthuma*.

Extracts	Concentration (mg/ml)	<i>Pheretima posthuma</i> paralysis (P)	
		Paralysis	Death time
Standard (Albendazole)	20	28.71 ± 1.86	32.90 ± 6.85
Methanolic extract	100	12.33 ± 0.33	38.3 ± 3.76
	250	8.00 ± 0.58	27.21 ± 2.18
	500	4.33 ± 0.67	15.17 ± 1.28

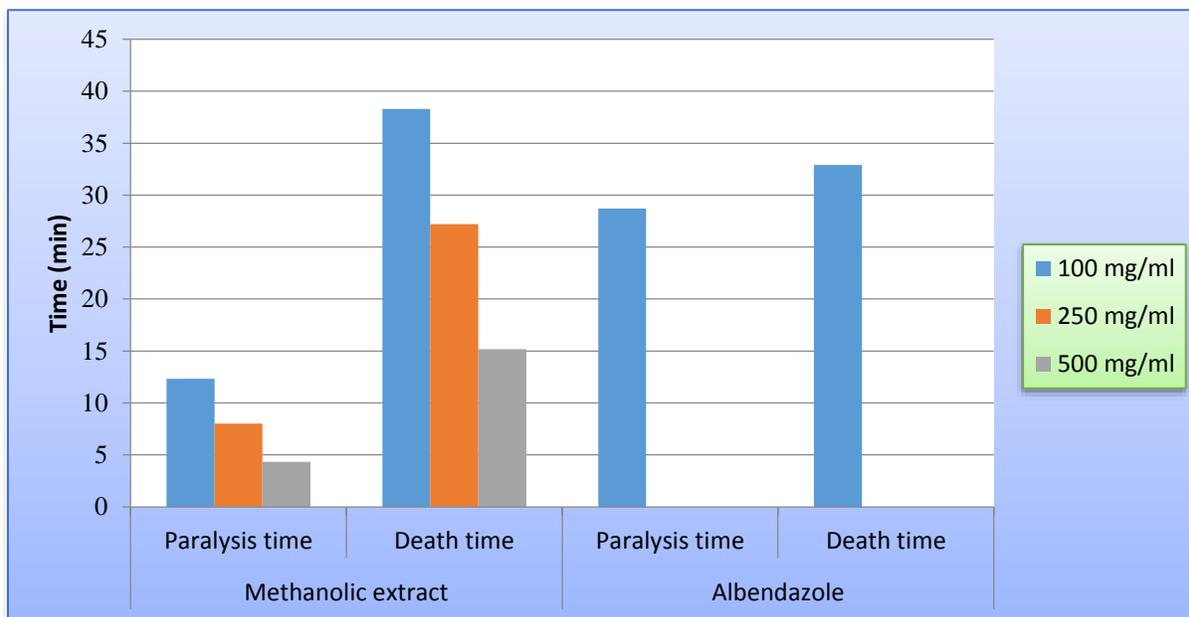


FIG. 2. Effect of methanolic extracts of *Strychno scolubrina* L. on *Pheretima posthuma*.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this study provides evidences for the anthelmintic activity of *Strychnos colubrina* L. which could partly contribute to its ethno medical use. However, further investigation is required to isolate the active constituents responsible for this activity and to elucidate the exact mechanism of action.

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