ejpmr, 2020,7(8), 111-115

SJIF Impact Factor 6.222

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

www.ejpmr.com

Research Article

ISSN 2394-3211

EJPMR

ANTIDEPRESSANT-LIKE EFFET OF HYDRO ALCOHOL EXTRACT OF STEM BARK FROM XYLOPIA VILLOSA IN MICE

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Article Received on 28/05/2020 **Article Revised on 18/06/2020** **Article Accepted on 08/07/2020**

ABSTRACT

Objective: The aim of the present study is to evaluate the antidepressant-like effect of hydro alcoholic extract of stem bark of *Xylopia villosa*. in mice. **Material and Methods**: Mice were randomly divided into five groups ($n = 5$/group): control group (distilled water), standard group where Amitriptyline (20mg/kg b.w., IP) was used as standard drug and three test groups where three doses of the hydro alcohol extract of *XV* (50, 100, and 200 mg/kg) was used for two weeks treatment. To assess the antidepressant-like effect of *XV* forced swimming test (FST), tail suspension test (TST) and measurement of locomotor activity test (OFT) have been done in mice. **Results:** The results showed that a strong and dose-dependent antidepressant effects in different mice models. The main findings of the *XV* significantly reduced the duration of immobility times in the forced swimming test ($p < 0.001$). Likewise, the extract significantly decreased the immobility time in the tail suspension test ($p < 0.001$). **Conclusion**: The results of the present work suggest that a hydro alcohol extract of stem bark of *Xylopia villosa* may possess an antidepressant effect.

KEYWORDS: *Xylopia villosa*., antidepressant, activity, mice.

INTRODUCTION

Depression is the second leading psychiatric disorder where 21 % of the world population suffers from this disease.[1] The age range is markedly decreasing from 40–50 years age range to 25–35 years age range which observed worldwide.[2] In last few decades, several drugs have been discovered to treat depression such as tricyclic antidepressants, monoamine oxidase inhibitors[3] and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI). But unfortunately, all of the drugs have serious side effects including insomnia, anxiety, weight gain etc. It is well known that nature is the best and safe source for all medicine. So it becomes worth to search for a new antidepressant drug from natural source with less side effects and complications.[4] The Ivorian flora in 1979[5] revealed five thousand species including *Xylopia villosa*. *Xylopia* are a large pantropical genus comprising about 150 species of which around thirty are found in mainland tropical Africa and 25 species in Madagascar. *Xylopia villosa* is a tree whose wood, hard and durable enough, is used to make building poles and tool handles.[6] Powder or macerated of *Xylopia villosa* stem bark is used in traditional medicine to treat various diseases including colds and headaches. The ground seeds are applied on ulcers and boils for healing.[6] It produces a monoterpene essential oil whose composition is dominated by sabinene or β-ocimene.[7] Recently, the study of the chemical composition, the acute toxicity and evaluation of anti-inflammatory activity of *Xylopia villosa* stem bark was done[8] and antioxidant activity.[9] no scientific report regarding the in vivo antidepressant activity of *Xylopia villosa*. extract has been published. That's why, the present study was undertaken to assess the possible antidepressant effects following single administration of hydro alcohol extract of stem bark of *Xylopia villosa* in mice. For this purpose, we used the forced swim test (FST), open field tests (OFT) and the tail suspension test (TST).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Plant material

Xylopia villosa stems bark were harvested in October, 2019 at the Jean Lorougnon GUEDE university from Daloa, (Cote d'Ivoire). The plant was identified and verified by botanist Professor from Jean Lorougnon GUEDE university of Daloa (Cote d'Ivoire).

-Extract preparation

The stems bark of *Xylopia villosa* were dried for four weeks. The drying process of the stems barks of *Xylopia villosa* was done in the absence of light to avoid the principle of the clear phase of photosynthesis which is for the plant (*Xylopia villosa*) to capture the light energy Photons and to transmit it by way of the electrons

charged with this energy, to a chain of electron acceptors (molecules with variable oxidoreduction potentials). Then the dried stem bark of *Xylopia villosa* made powder using an electric grinder IKAMAG RCT®. 100 grams of powder of *Xylopia villosa* were macerated for 24 hours in 1 liter of ethanol (ethanol and distilled water mixture: 70/30). The macerated obtained was then filtered twice on white cotton and once on Whatman filter paper N°4. The filtrate obtained in 70% ethanol was evaporated to dryness at reduced pressure at temperature of 40°C using a rotary evaporator type Buchi 161 Water Bath.

-Animals

25 healthy adults males Swiss albino mice weighing (20–30 g) were obtained from the animal house of Jean Lorougnon GUEDE University, Daloa. These animals were housed under standard environmental conditions. The mice were fed with FACI® (Fabrication d'Aliments de Côte d'Ivoire) pellets, groundnuts and dried fish. They had free access to drinking water ad libitum.

-Drugs and chemicals

The standard drugs Amitriptyline was collected from Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Cote d'Ivoire. Distilled water which was used for dilution purpose was prepared was obtained from Jean Lorougnon GUEDE university of Daloa (Cote d'ivoire).

Behavioral parameters used to test antidepressant activity

-Forced swim test

The procedures for the FST, a widely used behavioral test for the detection of antidepressant-like effects, were similar to those described earlier.[10,11] Animals were initially placed individually to swim in plastic cylinders (30 cm of diameter by 40 cm in height containing 25 cm of water at 24 ± 1°C for 15 min (pretest).[10] They were then removed and allowed to dry in a separate cage before returning to their home cages. Twenty-four hours later the animals were submitted to a 5 min session of forced swimming session (test). During this session the total amount of time in which animals remained immobile (except for small limb movements necessary for floating) were recorded by an observer that was blind to the treatments. The water was changed after each trial to avoid the influence of alarm substances.

-Tail suspension test

TST was carried out according to the method described by Porsolt *et al*.[10,11] Briefly, mice were suspended by their tails using an elastic band attached to the tails by adhesive tape, and the elastic band was hooked onto a horizontal rod. The distance between the tip of the nose of the mouse and the floor was approximately 20 cm. they were suspended for a period of 5 min, and the time spent immobile during the last 4 min of the 5 min was recorded for each individual, by an observer blinded to the genotype.

-Open field test

Locomotor activity and exploratory behavior were assessed in an open field by the method described by Souza.[12] The apparatus consisted of a wooden box (60 × 60 × 30 cm^3) with the floor divided into 16 squares (15 × 15 cm^2). The apparatus was illuminated with a 40-W lamp suspended 100 cm above. they were placed individually in one of the corner squares. The number of rearing, assisted rearing (forepaws touching the wall of the apparatus) and squares traveled were counted for 5 min.

Experimental study design

Twenty-five mice were randomly divided into five groups (5 mice/group). The control group received vehicle (distilled water 0,1mL/mouse). Amitriptyline (20mg/kg b.w., IP) was used as the positive control or standard group while the treated mice received *XV* (50, 100, and 200mg/kg body weight i.p). A single dose of *XV* was administered daily for 14 days. the behaviors of all groups were assessed for antidepressant activity 30 min after the last treatment dose on the 14th day. Different standardized depression models were used for behavioral tests to evaluate the antidepressant activity, such as forced swim test (FST), tail suspension test (TST) test and open field test (OFT).

Statistical analysis

The results are presented as mean ± SEM. The statistical analysis was performed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Dunnett's post hoc test as appropriate using statistica 10.0 software for windows. Differences between groups were considered significant at a level of $p < 0.001$.

RESULTS

The hydro alcohol extract of *Xylopia villosa* showed antidepressant-like effects in animal models, namely forced swimming, measurement of locomotor activity and tail suspension tests. The extract of *Xylopia villosa* (50, 100 and 200 mg/kg body weight) significantly reduced the duration of immobility time in the forced swimming test after 14d daily treatment (Table 1). Dunnett's post hoc analysis demonstrated that the test treatments significantly decreased the immobility time in comparison to the control group ($p < 0.001$). Likewise, the extract of *Xylopia villosa* reduced the duration of immobility time in the tail suspension test (Table 2). Post hoc analysis confirmed that the extract significantly decreased the immobility time in comparison to the control group ($p < 0.001$).

As shown in table 3 *Xylopia villosa* (50 and 200 mg/kg) was shown the satisfactory locomotion effect. At the doses of 200 and 400 mg/kg was significantly augmented the good rearing effect of this test table 3. Moreover, Post hoc analysis also verified that the extract significantly increased the locomotion and rearing effects in comparison to the control group ($p < 0.001$).

Table 1: Antidepressant effects of hydro alcohol extract of *Xylopia villosa* in forced swimming test.

Treatment	Doses (mg/kg)	Immobility time (s)
Distilled water	0,1ml/mouse	224,5±3,38
Amitriptyline	20	109,8±1,59*
XV	50	157,3±2,65*
XV	100	136,4±2,73*
XV	200	115,5±2,42*

(n = 5); *P<0.001 (ANOVA; Dunnet post hoc)

Table 2: Antidepressant effects of hydro alcohol extract of *Xylopia villosa* in tail suspension test.

Treatment	Doses (mg/kg)	Immobility time (s)
Distilled water	0,1ml/mouse	201,5±2,18
Amitriptyline	20	98,8±1,49*
XV	50	137,3±2,15*
XV	100	126,4±2,53*
XV	200	110,5±2,48*

(n = 5); *P<0.001 (ANOVA; Dunnet post hoc)

Table 3: Antidepressant effects of hydro alcohol extract of *Xylopia villosa* in measurement of locomotor activity.

Treatment	Doses (mg/kg)	Rearing	Number of square traversed
Distilled water	0,1ml/mouse	23±1,15	107,5±2,15
Amitriptyline	20	36±2,05*	210,8±2,15*
XV	50	27±2,25	102±1,20*
XV	100	37±2,55*	127±1,35
XV	200	47±2,45*	156±1,55*

DISCUSSION

The aim of this study was assessed the antidepressant-like effect of *Xylopia villosa* using animal behavioral models. A major problem in the screening for new antidepressant effect is the establishment of a valid animal model able to sufficiently and accurately identified diverse depressant treatments, without making errors of omission.[13] In that case, the forced swimming and tail suspension tests are widely accepted behavioral models for the assessment of antidepressant activity. The characteristic behavior evaluated in these tests, termed immobility, has been considered to reflect behavioral despair similar to that seen in human depression, and it is well known that antidepressant drugs are able to reduce the immobility time in rodents.[14] It is interesting to note that the immobility shown by mice when subjected to unavoidable stress such as forced swimming test is thought to reflect a state of despair or lowered mood, which is thought to reflect depressive disorders in humans. In addition, the immobility time is reduced by treatment with antidepressant drugs.[15] There is a significant correlation between the clinical efficacy of antidepressant drugs and their potency in the FST, this was not found in any other model.[16,17] Interestingly, our data indicate that higher doses of plant extracts were more effective than smaller doses both in forced swimming and tail suspension tests.

In our present study, antidepressant-like effect of *Xylopia villosa* in all the classic models of depressants, where it was found to possess antidepressant-like activity comparable to the standard drug Amitriptyline. Amitriptyline acts by inhibiting norepinephrine (NE) reuptake and has been used as a standard drug in majority studies. The beneficial effect of Amitriptyline in the forced swimming test model seems to be due to increased availability of these neurotransmitters (NE) and serotonin (5HT) at the post synaptic site following reuptake inhibition.[18]

Initial hypothesis of depression has been formulated about 40 years ago, proposing that the main symptoms of depression due to functional deficiency of cerebral monoaminergic transmitters such as (NE), 5HT, and dopamine (DA) located at synapses.[19] Some studies have also shown the adaptogenic effect of the plant extract via normalization of the various stress parameters and monoaminergic levels which may provide a clue that the extract is bringing their possible antidepressant-like effect through restoration of normal monoaminergic neurotransmitters.[20]

According Kouame and al work, aqueous and ethanolic extracts of *Xylopia villosa stem bark* possess antioxidant activity.[9] Indeed, in their study, *Xylopia villosa* have shown their ability to reduce the iron ion 3 to iron ion 2. This reducing capacity is more important for the ethanolic extract. The strong reductive capacity of the ethanolic extract is linked to its polyphenol concentration. And there is a link between the content of phenolic compounds and reducing power.[9]

recently, oxidative stress was linked with the pathophysiology of major depression, with significant

correlations being found between the severity of depression and erythrocyte superoxide dismutase/lipoperoxidation levels.[21] Meanwhile, treatment with antidepressants reduces the oxidative stress related to depressive disorder.[22,23] Additionally, some species such as *Bacopa monneira*, *Withania somnifera* and *Asparagus racemosus*, all of which are reported to have antidepressant-like properties, also possess antioxidant activity.[24,25] Therefore, it is possible that the antioxidant activity of ethanolic extracts of *Xylopia villosa stem bark* may contribute to its antidepressant-like effect.

CONCLUSION

In the present study, we have reported antidepressant-like effect of *Xylopia villosa* in all the classic models such as forced swimming test (FST), measurement of locomotor activity test (OFT) and tail suspension test (TST), where it was found to possess significant antidepressant-like activity comparable to the standard drug Amitriptyline. Different kinds of the research must undertake to elucidate the mechanism of action of *Xylopia villosa* in the CNS, the pattern of effects were observed in these experiments suggest the involvement of norepinephrine neurotransmitters system on its antidepressant-like effect.

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