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In-Vitro Anticancer Activity of Ethanolic Extract of *Cynodon dactylon* Against HEP-2, HELA and MCF-7 Cell Lines.

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ABSTRACT:

The aim of the present study is to evaluate the effect of *in-vitro* anticancer activity of the ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* against HEP-2 laryngeal, HELA cervical and MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines and it was compared with normal, Vero cell line using MTT assay showed a percentage of cell viability of 97 % at 0.078mg/ml which decrease with increase in concentration of extract. Anticancer activity of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* on HEP-2, HELA and MCF-7 cancer cell lines showed potent cytotoxic activity. The inhibition percentage with regard to cytotoxicity was found to be 93.5%, 88.5% and 79.2% at 10mg/ml, which was comparable to the control Cyclophosphamide that showed a cytotoxicity of 96%, 92% and 83% Therefore the minimum effective concentration of ethanol extract of *Cynodon dactylon* was non-toxic to Vero cells but toxic to HEP-2, HELA and MCF-7 cells(Ic50) was recorded at a concentration of 0.156mg/ml 0.625mg/ml of the ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon*. Among these three cell lines *Cynodon dactylon* shows more activity in HEP-2 laryngeal cell line.

KEYWORDS: *Cynodon dactylon*, HEP-2, MCF-7 cell lines, MTT assay, DNA Fragmentation

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INTRODUCTION:

Plant derived agents are being used for the treatment of cancer. Several anticancer agents from plants include, taxol, vinblastine, vincristine, the camptothecin derivatives, topotecan and irinotecan, and etoposide derived from epipodo phyllotoxin are in clinical use all over the world. Numerous cancer research studies have been conducted using traditional medicinal plants in an effort to discover new therapeutic agents that lack the toxic side effects associated with current chemotherapeutic agents. *Scutellaria baicalensis* was used as a component of PCSPES, an herbal mixture that showed efficacy in laboratory trials for prostate cancer, small-cell lung cancer and acute myeloid leukemia¹⁻⁶. Although more than 1500 anticancer drugs are in active development with over 500 of the drugs under clinical phytomedicines has increased dramatically in the last two decades⁷. It has been also reported⁸ that more than 50% of all modern drugs in clinical use are of natural products, many of which have been recognized to have the ability to include apoptosis in various cancer cells of human originals, there is an urgent need to develop much effective and less toxic drugs. Invitro studies⁹. Geinstien in plants such as parsley and soy foods inhibits protein tyrosine kinase, thereby disrupting signal transduction and inducing cell differentiation^{10,11}.

Cynodon dactylon .Pers. belongs to the family of Poaceae¹² and is said to have many medicinal properties including Antihelmentic¹³, Antidiuretic, Antiinflammatory, Hepatoprotective activity¹⁴ as well as treatment of Urinary tract infections¹⁵, Prostatitis, and Dysentery. Traditionally it is used in diabetes^{16,17} jaundice, kidney problems¹⁸, urinary disease, gastrointestinal disorder¹⁹, Constipation and abdominal pain. The whole plant is used for diuretic, dropsy, syphilis, wound infection and piles. *Cynodon dactylon* is used as antihemorrhagic in dysentery and nasal bleeding²⁰. The juice of the plant is astringent and is applied externally to fresh cuts and wounds. It is used in the treatment of catarrhal ophthalmia, hysteria, epilepsy, insanity, and chronic diarrhea. The plant is folk remedy for anasarca, calculus, carbuncles, cough, hypertension, snake bites, gout and rheumatic affections. *Cynodon dactylon* is a valuable herbal medicine and used for first aid for minor injuries^{21,22}. *Cynodon dactylon* is bitter, sharp hot taste, good odor, laxative, brain and heart tonic, aphrodisiac, expectorant, carminative and useful against grippe in children and for pains, inflammations, and toothache²³.

Virus-affected discolored leaves of *Cynodon* are used for the treatment of liver complaints. In Homoeopathic systems of medicine, it is used to treat all types of bleeding and skin troubles²⁴. The Ethanolic extract of aerial parts of *C. dactylon* showed marked protection against convulsions induced by chemo convulsive agents in mice²⁵. Ethanolic extract of defatted *C. dactylon* has high antidiabetic

potential along with good hypolipidemic profile²⁶. This suggests the potential for *Cynodon dactylon* to become an alternative to current diabetes medications. The methanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* possessed significant antitumor activity and hepatoprotective effect against Ehrlich ascitic Lymphoma (ELA) in Swiss albino mice and brought back the altered levels of the hematological parameters and liver enzymes²⁷. Aqueous and ethanolic extract of *C. dactylon* (500µg/ml) were investigated for their antibacterial activity against gram positive bacteria and gram negative bacteria using disc diffusion, well in agar and microdilution method. *E. coli*, *B. subtilis*, *S. aureus* and *A. hydrophila* were more susceptible in the ethanolic extract and no result was found in aqueous extract²⁸. *In vitro* cytotoxic of the root extract of *Rubia cordifolia* exhibited significant cytotoxic activity against Hep-2 cell line²⁹. The fruits of *Solanum nigrum* methanolic extract were tested for its inhibitory effect on HeLa Cell Line. The cytotoxicity of *Solanum nigrum* on HeLa cell was evaluated by the SRB assay and MTT assay. *Solanum nigrum* methanolic extract has significant cytotoxicity effect on HeLa Cell Line in concentration range between 10mg/ml to 0.0196mg/ml by using SRB assay and study also showed that inhibitory action on HeLa cell line in concentration range between 10 mg/ml to 0.0196mg/ml by using MTT assay³⁰. The antioxidant and anticancer activities were assessed for two Bangladeshi ginger varieties (Fulbaria and Syedpuri) at young age grown under ambient (400 mol/mol) and elevated (800 mol/mol) CO₂ concentrations against two human breast cancer cell lines (MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231)³¹.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Reagents:

MEM was purchased from Hi Media Laboratories Fetal bovine serum (FBS) was purchased from Cistron laboratories Trypsin, methylthiazolyl diphenyl- tetrazolium bromide (MTT), and Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) were purchased from (Sisco research laboratory chemicals Mumbai). All of other chemicals and reagents were obtained from Sigma Aldrich Mumbai

Media and Cell lines:

African Green Monkey Kidney Normal Vero cell, Hep-2, Hela and Mcf-7 cell lines were obtained from National centre for cell sciences Pune (NCCS). The cells were maintained in Minimal Essential Media supplemented with 10% FBS, penicillin (100µg/ml), and streptomycin (100 g/ml) in a humidified atmosphere of 50 g/ml CO₂ at 37°C.

Collection of Plant material:

Cynodon dactylon were collected from in and around Maduravoyal region, The voucher specimen were kept in the Department of Zoology, Chennai, Tamilnadu , India and used for this study.

Preparation of ethanol extract:

25g of dried powder of *Cynodon dactylon*(include leaf, stem and root) ,was mixed with 100ml of ethanol solvent and kept in rotary shaker at 100 rpm overnight and filtered with whatman no.1 filter paper and concentrated to dryness at 40⁰c. until further use. Different concentration of the ethanolic extracts(0.078mg/ml, 0.156mg/ml, 0.312mg/ml, 0.625, 1.25mg/ml, 2.5mg/ml, 5mg/ml, 10mg/ml) were prepared in 5% Dimethyl Sulfoxide (DMSO) for determining cytotoxicity. The yield of the extract was 1.97g.The crude extract was then dissolved in 10% water in methanol.

Experimental design:

A cytotoxicity property of ethanol extract of *Cynodon dactylon* was carried out by MTT method against, HEP-2 Laryngeal, HELA Cervical and MCF-7 Breast cancer cell lines and Vero normal cell.

Cell viability assay on vero cells:

The Cytotoxicity of samples on VERO was determined by the MTT assay³². Cells (1×10^5 /well) were plated in 100 μ l of medium/well in 96-well plates (Costar Corning, Rochester,NY). After 48 hours incubation the cell reaches the confluence. Then, cells were incubated in the presence of various concentrations of the samples in 0.1% DMSO for 48h at 37°C. After removal of the sample solution and washing with phosphate-buffered saline (pH7.4), 20 μ l/well (5mg/ml) of 0.5% 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl--tetrazolium bromide cells(MTT) phosphate- buffered saline solution was added. After 4h incubation, 0.04M HCl/isopropanol was added. Viable cells were determined by the absorbance at 450nm. Measurements were performed and the concentration required for a 50% inhibition of viability was determined graphically. The absorbance at 450 nm was measured with a UV-Spectrophotometer using wells without sample containing cells as blanks. The effect of the samples on the proliferation of VERO cells was expressed as the % cell viability, using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ cell viability} = A_{450} \text{ of treated cells} / A_{450} \text{ of control cells} \times 100\%.$$

Cell viability on Hep-2, HeLa and Mcf-7 Cancer cell lines:

The anticancer activity of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* was performed on Hep-2 laryngeal, HeLa Cervical and Mcf-7 Breast cancer cell lines obtained from NCCLS Pune, India. The cell viability was measured using MTT assay as described above. Controls were maintained throughout the experiment. The assay was performed in triplicates for each of the extracts. The mean of the cell viability values was compared to the control to determine the effect of the extract. Cells and % viability was plotted against concentration of the plant extract. The maximum concentration of the plant extract that was non toxic to vero cells but toxic to Hep-2, HeLa and Mcf-7 cell lines was recorded as the effective drug concentration.

DNA fragmentation technique:

The ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* which is treated with Hep-2, HeLa and Mcf-7 cell lines was passed to DNA fragmentation technique. A distinctive feature of apoptosis at the biochemical level is DNA fragmentation³³. This method was used as a semiquantitative method for measuring apoptosis³⁴. The culture medium was removed and centrifuged at 3000x g for 5 min to collect detached cells. 2ml of cells which is centrifuged to 3000rpm suspended in 200 µL of 1X TE Buffer and 100 µL of 10% SDS, incubated at 60⁰ C for 20 min. add 300 µL of Phenol:Chloroform: Isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1) mixed well, then centrifuge at 10,000 rpm for 10 min. To the supernatant add 500µL of Isopropanol. Add 200 µL of 70% ethanol, then centrifuge at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. Dry the pellet at 37⁰C till there are no traces of solution. Resuspend the pellet in 20 µL of 1xTE Buffer. Electrophorese the extracted DNA on 1% agarose gel. Agarose gel electrophoresis is carried out³⁵. For casting 1% Agarose gel add 0.8 gm of Agarose in 80mL of diluted 1X TBE buffer. Allow the gel to solidify without disturbing the wells. Transfer the gel to 1X TBE buffer filled electrophoresis tank. Add 2 µL of gel loading dye to 20µL of sample DNA, mix well, and then load the total 22µL of sample to gel. Connect the power card terminals at respective positions, run the gel at 50 V till the Gel loading dye migrates more than half of the length of gel. Then switch off the unit, Visualize the separated sample DNA with MW marker under UV Transilluminator.

RESULTS AND DISSCUSSION:

Results of cell viability assay on normal vero cell and Hep-2 laryngeal cancer cell line are shown in (Table1&fig.1). The nontoxic dose of the ethanol extract of *Cynodon dactylon* on normal vero cell line

showed that the percentage with regard to viability of cells was found to be 97% at a concentration of 0.078mg/ml which decreased with increase in concentration. Results of anticancer activity on Hep-2 is shown in (table2). The extract showed a potent cytotoxic activity against Hep-2 laryngeal cancer cell line. Cyclophosphamide served as pc-control and 96.2% cancer inhibition was observed. The concentration of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* at 10mg/ml showed inhibition percent with regard to cytotoxicity of 93.5% that was comparable to the positive control. Ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* at 5mg/ml, 2.5mg/ml, 1.25mg/ml, 0.625mg/ml, 0.312mg/ml, 0.156mg/ml, 0.078mg/ml showed cytotoxic activity of 90.0%, 81.6%, 74.8%, 66.1%, 59.2%, 46.9%, 32% respectively. Results of anticancer activity on HELA Cervical cancer cell line is shown in (table3&fig.1). Cyclophosphamide served as pc-control and 92% cancer inhibition was observed. The concentration of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* at 10mg/ml showed inhibition percent with regard to cytotoxicity of 88.5% that was comparable to the positive control. Ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* at 5mg/ml, 2.5mg/ml, 1.25mg/ml, 0.625mg/ml, 0.312mg/ml, 0.156mg/ml, 0.078mg/ml showed cytotoxic activity of 86.2%, 82.9%, 73.7%, 50.2%, 42.9%, 37.6%, 27.1% respectively. Results of anticancer activity on MCF-7 Breast cancer cell line is shown in (table 4 & fig.1). The extract showed a potent cytotoxic activity against MCF-7 cancer cell line. Cyclophosphamide served as pc-control and 83% cancer inhibition was observed(table 4). The concentration of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* at 10mg/ml showed inhibition percent with regard to cytotoxicity of 79.2% that was comparable to the positive control .Ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* at 5mg/ml, 2.5mg/ml, 1.25mg/ml, 0.625mg/ml, 0.312mg/ml, 0.156mg/ml, 0.078mg/ml showed cytotoxic activity of 68.75%, 64.6%, 52.1%, 45.9%, 39.6%, 29.2%, 14.6% respectively. Morphological changes of drug treated cells were examined using an inverted microscope and compared with the cells serving as control (fig.2). These observations may be due to the presence of active biological compounds. Therefore the minimum effective concentration of ethanol extract of *Cynodon dactylon* that was non toxic to Vero cells, but toxic to 50% HEP-2 Laryngeal, HELA Cervical and MCF-7 breast cancer cells was recorded (Ic50) at a concentration of 0.156mg/ml, 0.625mg/ml of the plant extract. Among these three cancerous cell lines HEP-2 shows high activity at the concentration of 0.156mg/ml.

DNA fragmentation was obtained by agarose gel electrophoresis of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* with Hep-2, HeLa and Mcf-7 cancer cell lines. The DNA migrated as discrete bands which was compared to DNA markers, gave a ladder of approximately 200 base pair (bp). Such DNA ladders

are considered to be a hall mark of apoptosis, continues smears may also indicate DNA fragmentation due to apoptosis. The ladder from DNA fragmentation catalyzed by an endogenous endonuclease that cleaves internucleosomal DNA to form ladder like bands of oligo nucleosome fragments. From this it is revealed that these DNA fragments (fig.3) shows that the ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* has anticancer activity in the Hep-2, HeLa and Mcf-7 cell lines.

Table 1: Cell viability assay on Vero cell line

S.No	Concentration(mg/ml)	Dilution	% cell viability	Percentage of Cytotoxicity
1.	Control	-	100	0
2.	0.078	1:64	97	3
3.	0.156	1:32	94	6
4.	0.312	1:16	92	8
5.	0.625	1:8	89	11
6.	1.25	1:4	86	14
7.	2.5	1:2	84	16
8.	5	1:1	82	18
9.	10	Neat	79	21

Table2: Anticancer activity of HEP2 cell line of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon*.

S.No	Concentration(mg/ml)	Dilution	% cell viability	Percentage of cytotoxicity
1.	Negative control	-	100	0
2.	0.078	1:64	68.0	32
3.	0.156	1:32	53.1	46.9
4.	0.312	1:16	40.8	59.2
5.	0.625	1:8	33.9	66.1
6.	1.25	1:4	25.2	74.8
7.	2.5	1:2	18.4	81.6
8.	5	1:1	9.9	90.0
9.	10	Neat	6.5	93.5
10.	Positive Control	-	3.8	96.2

Table3: Anticancer activity of HELA cell line of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon*.

S.No	Concentration(mg/ml)	Dilution	% cell viability	Percentage of cytotoxicity
1.	Negative control	-	100	0
2.	0.078	1:64	72.9	27.1
3.	0.156	1:32	62.4	37.6
4.	0.312	1:16	57.1	42.9
5.	0.625	1:8	49.8	50.2
6.	1.25	1:4	26.3	73.7
7.	2.5	1:2	17.1	82.9
8.	5	1:1	13.8	86.2
9.	10	Neat	11.5	88.5
10.	Positive Control	-	8.0	92

Table4: Anticancer activity of MCF-7 cell line of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon*.

S.No	Concentration(mg/ml)	Dilution	% cell viability	Percentage of cytotoxicity
1.	Negative control	-	100	0
2.	0.078	1:64	85.4	14.6
3.	0.156	1:32	70.8	29.2
4.	0.312	1:16	60.4	39.6
5.	0.625	1:8	54.1	45.9
6.	1.25	1:4	47.9	52.1
7.	2.5	1:2	35.4	64.6
8.	5	1:1	31.25	68.75
9.	10	Neat	20.8	79.2
10.	Positive Control	-	17	83

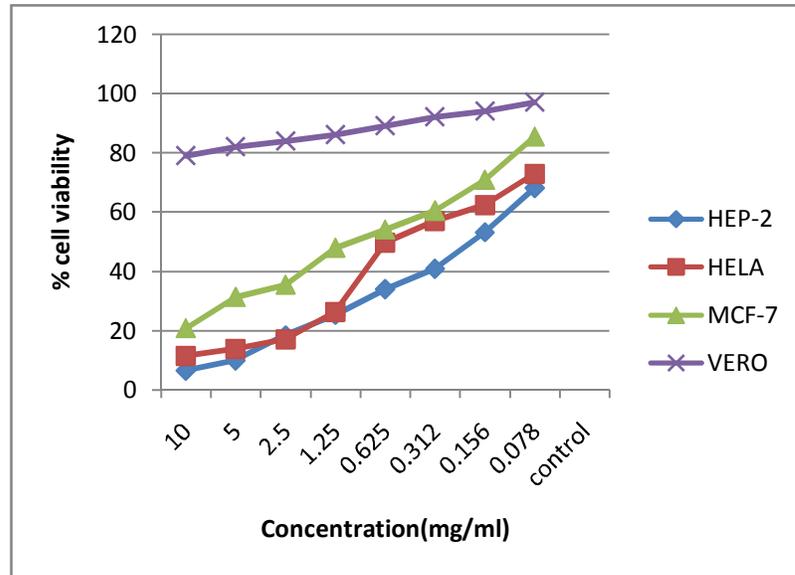
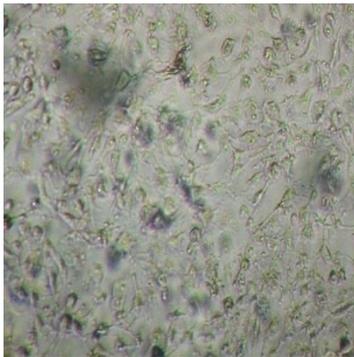
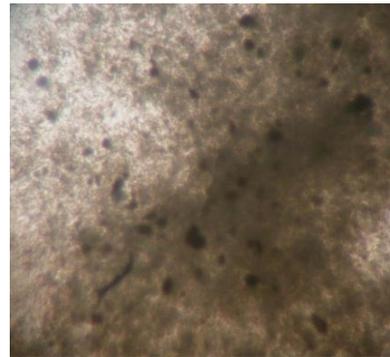


Fig 1: Percentage of cell viability vs concentration shows that the effective drug concentration, that is non toxic to Vero cell line but toxic to Hep-2, Hela and Mcf-7 Cancer cell lines.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

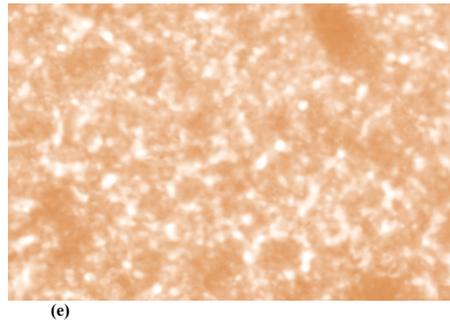


Fig.2: Photomicrograph of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* treated with cancer cell lines. a) Vero normal cell line. b) Hep-2 Cell lines treated with 0.156mg/ml of ethanol extract of *Cynodon dactylon*. c) HeLa Cell lines treated with 0.625mg/ml of ethanol extract of *Cynodon dactylon*. d) MCF-7 Cell lines treated with 0.625mg/ml of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon*. e) Positive Control(pc).

Dna fragmentation:

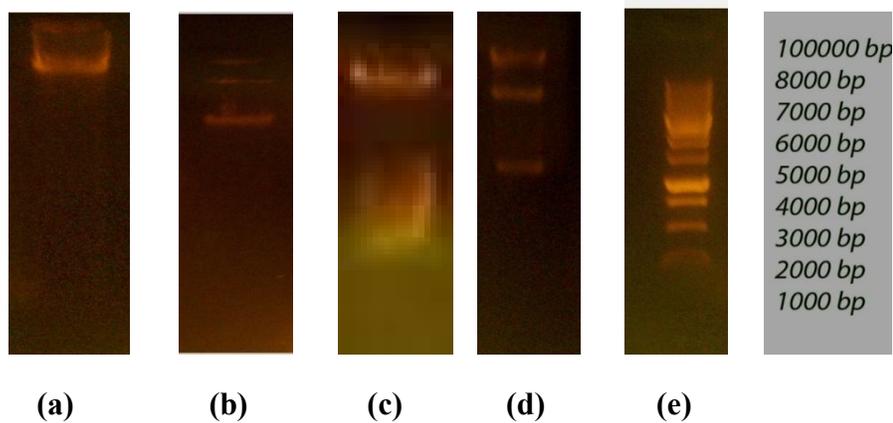


Fig3. DNA laddering visualized in agarose gel by ethidium bromide staining of ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon*
a) Lane1: HEP-2 b) Lane 2: HELA c) Lane 3: MCF-7 d) Lane 4: Control e) Lane 5: kb marker

CONCLUSION:

The results of this study support the efficacy of *Cynodon dactylon* as an anticancer agent for Hep-2 laryngeal, HeLa Cervical and MCF-7 Breast cancer cell lines. From the present study it has been revealed that ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* shows 50% anticancer activity in Hep-2 cancer cell line at the concentration of 0.156mg/ml, when compared to HeLa and MCF-7 at the concentration of 0.625mg/ml. It may act as a potential adjuvant treatment to current chemotherapeutic agents and can be

used in the treatment of Hep-2, Hela and Mcf-7 cell lines. From this it is said that there may be some anticancer components, which helps for the treatment of HEP-2 laryngeal, HeLa cervical, Mcf-7 breast cancer cell lines, Further research has to be conducted for components present in the ethanolic extract of *Cynodon dactylon* which may act as the ligand and bind with these cancer cell line receptors. In future the components present on *Cynodon dactylon* may act as a drug, for the above mentioned cell lines. Further *in-vivo* studies should be carried out. Several reports describe that the anticancer activity of these plants is due to presence of antioxidants.

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