

n vivo antiulcer activity of the aqueous extract of Bauhinia purpurea leaf.

Abstract

Ethnopharmacological relevance *Bauhinia purpurea* (Fabaceae) is a medicinal plant traditionally used to treat various ailments, including ulcers. In order to establish pharmacological properties of the leaf of *Bauhinia purpurea*, studies were performed on antiulcer activity of the plant's aqueous extract. Materials and methods The *Bauhinia purpurea* aqueous extract (BPAE) was prepared in the doses of 100, 500 and 1000 mg/kg. Antiulcer activity of BPAE was evaluated by absolute ethanol- and indomethacin-induced gastric ulcer, and pyloric ligation models. Acute toxicity was also carried out. Results BPAE, at the dose of 5000 mg/kg, did not cause any signs of toxicity to rats when given orally. Oral administration of BPAE exhibited antiulcer activity ($p < 0.05$) in all models used. However, the dose-dependent activity was observed only in the absolute ethanol-induced gastric ulcer model. Histological studies supported the observed antiulcer activity of BPAE. In pyloric ligation assay, BPAE increased the gastric wall mucus secretion. Conclusions The BPAE exhibits antiulcer activity, which could be due to the presence of saponins or sugar-free polyphenols, and, thus, confirmed the traditional uses of *Bauhinia purpurea* in the treatment of ulcers.

Keyword: *Bauhinia purpurea*; Fabaceae; Aqueous extract; Antiulcer; Saponins; Sugar-free polyphenols.