



Pharmacological Basis for the Medicinal Use of *Valeriana wallichii* in Constipation

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SUMMARY. *Valeriana wallichii* D.C. (Valerianaceae) is widely used in folk medicine for the treatment of hypo-motility disorder of the gut. The aim of the present study was to scientifically rationalize its usefulness in the constipation. The *V. wallichii* leaves crude extract, which tested positive for the presence of anthraquinones, flavonoids, saponins, sterols, tannins and terpenes caused concentration-dependent (3-10 mg/mL) contractile effect in isolated guinea-pig ileum. Pretreatment of tissues with atropine (1 μ M) completely abolished the stimulatory effect of *V. wallichii* leaves crude extract, similar to that of acetylcholine. These results indicate that the spasmogenic effect of *V. wallichii* is mediated possibly through the activation of muscarinic receptors, which provides sound mechanistic background for its medicinal use in constipation.

KEY WORDS: Cholinergic, Constipation, Spasmogenic, *Valeriana wallichii*.

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