

## TRADITIONAL USES, DETERMINATION OF IN- VITRO ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND ANTI-OXIDANT ACTIVITY, AND HYDROGEL FORMULATION FROM THE LEAVES OF ZANTHOXYLUM ARMATUM DC

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### ABSTRACT

*Zanthoxylum armatum* DC of the Rutaceae family also known as Mukthruhi in Manipuri or Indian prickly ash has an important role in the history of Manipuri and Indian history of medicine. Here the plants is collected from the hills of Manipur to analyse the traditional use, in-vitro anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant activity and hydrogel formulation from the leaves of *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC. The dried leaves were crushed into powder and macerated to obtained the extracts. further the extract are use to determine the in-vitro anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant activity and for hydrogel formulation too. After further experiment the leaves of zanthoxylum is said to have all the above activity.

**KEYWORDS:** *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC, *Mukthruhi*, *Tejpal*, *tejowati*, *hydrogel*, *anti-inflammatory*, *anti-oxidant*.

### INTRODUCTION

*Zanthoxylum armatum* DC. (syn. *Z. alatum* Roxb.) of the Rutaceae family is an important medicinal plant which is commonly known as Indian Prickly Ash, Nepal Pepper or Toothache tree. Local names of this plant are: Tejpal (Hindi), Tejo Wati (Sanskrit), Mukthruhi (Manipuri) and Timur (Nepal).<sup>[1-12]</sup> Synonyms of *Z. armatum* are *Z. planispinum*, Timur, Timber, Toothache Tree, Winged prickly ash. *Z. armatum* is found in India in the state of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur. There are 11 species and genus of the *Z. armatum* that's mainly found as medicinal plants, *Z. budrunga*, *Z. oxyphyllum*, *Z. oval folium*, *Z. acanthopodium*, *Z. planispinum*, *Z. armatum*, *Z. nitidium*, *Z. rhesta*, *Z. simulans*, *Z. avicennae* and *Z. limonella*. Out of these, 4 species are *Z. armatum* DC., *Z. acanthopodium* DC., *Z. oxyphyllum* Edge, and *Z. budrunga* are present in India.<sup>[13]</sup>



Fig. 1: *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC.

### Distribution

*Zanthoxylum armatum* is distributed in the hills of Manipur including Imphal East, West, Jiribam, Maram, Mao, Moreh, Ukhrul at an altitude ranging from 100m to 7500. Also founds in Jammu and Kashmir from altitude of 1000 to 1200 m and in Orissa and Andra Pradesh at 1200m. Genus found in different place of the world like Eastern and Southeast Asia. In southeast Asia India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, etc. This plant is mostly found in warmer and tropical region. The location for growth of these plants are valleys, mountains, forests etc.

### Description

It is a small tree or large spiny shrub. Leaves are distinctively trifoliolate with the leaf-stalk winged. Leaflets are stalk less, Natural regeneration usually occurs through seeds but the seeds undergo strong dormancy and may take few months to years for germination. Freshly harvested seeds are best for the large-scale cultivation. The seeds are sown in August-September in polybags in nursery or main field. The seeds germinate in 20–30 days after sowing. Stem cuttings may also be planted in the nursery during monsoon.

### Traditional uses

These species are used as a medicinal plant and they are more effective against diseases and more curable without having any side effect. *Zanthoxylum armatum* is widely

used as a medicine from ancient time to cure various diseases such as toothache and problems related to tooth, asthma, gum bleeding, fever, dyspepsia, and tonics and also use for Phytochemistry, pharmacological activities, diseases, traditional uses.<sup>[14]</sup>

The bark, fruits and seeds of *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC are extensively used in indigenous system of medicine as a carminative, stomachic and anthelmintic. The fruit and seeds are employed as an aromatic tonic in fever and dyspepsia. An extract of the fruits is reported to be effective in expelling round worms. Because of their deodorant, disinfectant and antiseptic properties, the fruits are used in dental troubles, and their lotion for scabies. They are also used to ward-off houseflies. The fruit part of the plant may use to purify the water, also used as insect repellent. The wood of this plant may be very heavier and strong then it is used for walking sticks. *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC also gives and showed work against antioxidants, antinociceptive, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, hepatoprotective, pesticides, anthelmintic, antiproliferative etc.<sup>[15]</sup> The leaves of *Zanthoxylum armatum* is widely used as a food ingredient in Manipur for different dishes and it gives various health benefits too. The dried seeds are also widely used as a spice in various dishes in Manipur. The extract of these plant such as leaves, barks, seeds is used for reducing pains and inflammation in the body so it is considered to be a very important plant in Manipur household.

#### **Determination of In- vitro anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant activities of zanthoxylum armatum**

##### **1. In- vitro anti-inflammatory activity**

The stock solution was prepared by using the extract in ethanol at concentration 1mg /ml and suitable dilutions (20µg/ml, 40µg/ml, 60µg/ml, 80µg/ml, 100µg/ml) were made to get the test solution.

##### **Inhibition of albumin denaturation method**

The in-vitro anti-inflammatory activity of extracts was evaluated by using inhibition of albumin denaturation technique. Inhibition of protein denaturation method was followed by SINGH *et al.* 2020. with some changes. The reaction mixture (5ml) consisting of 1ml of (0.1%) of bovine serum albumin fraction, 1ml tris-HCL buffer pH 7.8 solution and 1 ml of test solutions incubated at 37°C for 20 minutes, followed by heating at 72°C for 2-4 minutes in the water bath for denaturation. After cooling the sample at room temperature, the turbidity was recorded by spectrophotometrically at 660nm. Aspirin was taken as a standard solution. 1ml of distilled water with 1ml (0.1%) bovine serum albumin fraction and 1ml buffer solution was taken as control.<sup>[16-19]</sup>

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control} - \text{absorbance of test}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100$$

## **2. In- vitro anti-oxidant activity of zanthoxylum armatum**

### **A. Determination of 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging activity**

The antioxidant activity of zanthoxylum armatum is estimated on the basis of the radical scavenging effect of the stable DPPH free radical according to the method described by Blois (1958) with a minor change. Butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA) was used as a reference standard .0.5ml of DPPH solution in ethanol (0.1Mm) was mixed with 3ml of extract and 3ml of extract prepared in various concentration (20µg/ml, 40µg/ml, 60µg/ml, 80µg/ml, 100 µg/ml) respectively the standards were incubated for 30 minutes at 37.c. Absorbance was measured at 517nm using uv- visible spectrophotometer. Control reading was also taken and IC50 value was determined.<sup>[19-22]</sup>

The scavenging effect of DPPH free radical was calculated using the following equation.

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control} - \text{absorbance of test}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100$$

### **B. Ferric reducing anti-oxidant power (FRAP) ASSAY**

The total antioxidant potential of a sample was determined using ferric reducing ability of the FRAP assay (El JEMLI *et al.* 2016). The principal of this method was based on the reduction of potassium ferricyanide to its ferrous coloured form in the presence of anti-oxidant. Briefly, 100micro litre of each of the ethanolic extracts at various concentrations (10 µg/ml, 20µg/ml, 40µg/ml, 60µg/ml, 80µg/ml, 100 µg/ml), and 250microliter of phosphate buffer (0.2M, pH6.6) and 250microliter of potassium ferricyanide 1% were mixed and incubated for 30min at 50.c. and the reaction were stopped by adding 250µl of 10%(w/v)trichloro acetate acid and mixed in a microcentrifuge tube for 10min at 3000RPM to reduce ferricyanide into ferrocyanide. Finally, 250µl of the upper layer of the above reaction mixture was mixed with 250µl of distilled water and added freshly prepared 50µl of 0.1% of -ferric chloride solution in the above solution. The absorbance was measured at 700nm after keeping in a room temperature for 5 minutes. Gallic acid was taken as a standard. The antioxidant capacity was calculated by following formula.<sup>[23-27]</sup>

The reducing power activity was determined by using following equation –

$$\% \text{ reduction activity} = \frac{\text{absorbance in test} - \text{absorbance in control}}{\text{absorbance of test}} \times 100$$

## **3. Hydrogel formulation**

Leaves of *zanthoxylum armatum* extracts were tried with polymer Carbopol 940. The following few combinations with Carbopol 940 resulted in the best gel formulation, which was smooth and Stable.

**Method for preparation of gel containing extract**

1g of Carbopol 940 was dispersed in 50 ml of distilled water with continuous stirring. 5ml of distilled water was taken and required quantity of methyl paraben and propyl paraben were dissolved by Heating on water bath. Cool the solution, then to that added Propylene glycol 400. Further required quantity of zanthoxylum armatum leaves extract was mixed to the above mixture and volume made up to 100 ml by adding remaining distilled water.

Finally full mixed ingredients were mixed properly to the Carbopol 940 gel with continuous stirring and triethanolamine was added drop wise to the formulation for adjustment of required skin pH (6.8-7) and to obtain the gel at required consistency. The same method was followed for preparation of control sample without adding any *zanthoxylum armatum* leaves extract.

**Formulation**

The method above describe above the formula were tabulated in Table 1. Along with control sample gel were prepared with addition of 2.5g, 5g of *Zanthoxylum armatum* leaves extract to prepared 2.5% and 5% *Zanthoxylum armatum* leaves gel respectively. Table: Different formulation prepared with this ingredient along with quantity:

**Evaluation for hydrogel formulation**

1. Physical Evaluation: Physical parameters such as colour and appearance were checked.
2. Measurement of pH: pH of the gel was measured by using ph. meter.
3. Spreadibility: Spreadibility was determined by the apparatus which consist of wooden block, which was provided by a pulley at one end. By this method spreadibility was measured on the basis of slip and drag characteristics of gels. An excess of gel (about 2g) under study was placed on this ground slide. The gel was then sandwiched between this slid and another glass slide having the dimension of fixed ground slide and provide with the hook. A 1kg weighted was placed on the top of the two slides for mins to expel air and to provide a uniform film of the gel between the slides. Excess of the gel was scrapped off from the edges. The top plate was then subjected to pull of 80gms. With the help of string attached to the hook and the time (in second) required by the top slide to cover a distance of 7.5cm be noted. A shorter interval indicates better spreadibility. Spreadibility was calculated using the following formula:

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the exploration of *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC leaves has revealed a treasure trove of traditional uses, coupled with promising scientific findings regarding its in-vitro anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties. Through meticulous research, we've unveiled a deeper understanding of its potential therapeutic benefits, shedding light on its role in combating

inflammation and oxidative stress. Moreover, the development of hydrogel formulations offers exciting prospects for harnessing these properties in practical applications, ranging from pharmaceuticals to cosmetics. As we continue to delve into the intricate mechanisms of natural remedies like *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC, we pave the way for novel treatments that merge traditional wisdom with modern scientific innovation, ultimately enriching our arsenal against various health challenges.

**Declaration**

We declare that we do not have any conflict of interest.our aim is to deliver objectives and unbiased information and we maintained the integrity throughout the articles.

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