

SCREENING OF POLYSACCHARIDES OF SOME
MEDICINAL PLANTS ON ARTEMIA BIOASSAY

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The immunomodulating properties of compounds in plant extracts can be screened by using Artemia as a general bio assay as shown by the reported LC 50 values of whole plant extracts of Centella asiatica Urb and Aegle marmelos correa¹. This paper reports the effect of polysaccharides isolated from the above plants on the bio assay. Polysaccharides have been shown to be active on the classical and alternative pathways of activation of human complement *in vitro*².

The plants were extracted with hot water and the polysaccharide fraction was precipitated with ethanol. Different concentration of dialysed lyophilised polysaccharides were used in the assay.

These polysaccharides were tested using the modified Artemia bio assay procedure developed in this laboratory.

The results indicate an enhancement of the life span of artemia thus indicating that these polysaccharides exhibit immunomodulating activity.

References

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