

RED ALGAE AS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF ANTIFERTILITY
AGENTS : I EFFECT OF CRUDE EXTRACT OF
GELLIDUM SPP. ON FERTILITY OF FEMALE RATS

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Red algae are known to possess chemical constituents having a wide spectrum of biological activities (1). However, as yet, antifertility potential of extracts of red algae has not been explored. This study was launched to investigate the post-coital interceptive effect of Gelidium spp (red algae) collected from Sri Lankan coastal waters.

Fresh specimens of the red algae collected from Beruwala were stored in dichloromethane:methanol (1:1) for two weeks. The polyvinylpyrrolidone (10,000 MW) coprecipitate of the crude extract was made and administered orally (500mg/Kg/ml/day) to healthy adult mix-bred female rats from day 1 to day 7 post coitum. The extract was well tolerated with no signs of overt toxicity and caused a significant impairment of fertility. The antifertility effect was precipitated by an enhancement of pre-implantation losses and not by changes in post implantation losses or by abortifacient action.

It is suggested that red algae may be a potential source of post-coital interceptive agents and this extract warrants activity directed fractionation and characterization of active constituent/s.

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References:

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