

IN VITRO IMMUNOMODULATORY ACTIVITY OF  
CINNOMOMUM ZEYLANICUM NEES (LAURACEAE)

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Cinnomomum zeylanicum Nees is a small tree belongs to the family Lauraceae. The bark of this plant is used as a Kalka material in the preparation of many "Arishtas" including Vasakarishtaya which is under study in this laboratory.

A 6% ethanolic extract of the bark showed high in vitro activity on human complement (1) in both classical and alternative pathways and on the generation of chemiluminescence by activated Polymorphonuclear leukocytes. (2) Fractionation of the crude extract by dialysis resulted in high molecular (62.6%) and low molecular (24.9%) mass fractions, which showed differential activities on the test models. Thus activity of the high molecular weight fraction was significantly higher than that of the low molecular weight fraction and the crude extract on the classical pathway, while the activity of the low molecular weight fraction was higher than the high molecular weight fraction and the crude extract on the Polymorphonuclear leukocytes test.

The world wide use of the Cinnomomum zeylanicum as a spice makes these findings particularly significant.

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