

Analgesic effect of *Anisomeles indica* Kuntze

A decoction of leaves and stems of *Anisomeles indica* Kuntze (Family: Lamiaceae) is used to relieve severe pains in rheumatic joints. However, this pain relieving potential has not yet been scientifically proven or refuted. The aim of this study was to investigate the analgesic activity in this plant. A boiled aqueous extract of stems and leaves of pre-flowering (E₂) *A. indica* plants displayed a significant ($P < 0.01$) and dose-dependent ($r^2 = 1, P < 0.01$) increase in the reaction time (analgesic effect) (at doses ranging from 125-500mg/kg) when tested in rats using hot plate and tail flick techniques upto 6 h of treatment. The analgesic effect of 500 and 250mg/kg of E₂ was greater than that of 133.5mg/kg aspirin. In contrast the extract at flowering stage plant (E₁) had no analgesic activity even at 500 mg/kg. The analgesic effect was not abolished by naloxone, excluding the opioid receptor mediated effect. E₁ did not affect the spontaneous contractions of the isolate dioestrous rat uterus whole E₂ dose-dependently ($r^2 + 0.99, P < 0.001$) retarded the amplitude of contractions of the uterus like aspirin, indicating a cyclooxygenase I inhibitory activity producing the analgesic effect. The UV absorption and paper chromatography separation patterns showed a definite difference in the composition of E₁ and E₂. A change in chemical composition that accompanies with flowering stage could be one possible reason for the inability of E₁ to demonstrate any significant analgesic effect. The analgesic effect was not accompanied by any toxic effect. Therefore, it is advised to use the plant as an analgesic before flowering.