

Evaluation of toxicity of an Ayurvedic decoction commonly used to treat blood and mucus diarrhoea

In Ayurvedic medicine several decoctions are used in the treatment of dysentery from ancient times. We have investigated the antibacterial activity of such a decoction (aqueous extract of nine medicinal plants) and found that it is highly effective against *Shigella sonnei*. Animal experiments were carried out to evaluate any possible toxicological effects mediated by the long-term administration of the above decoction.

Investigations with this decoction showed that this decoction had no adverse effects on the histology of liver, heart, lung, kidney and intestine, on liver function (alanine transaminase, aspartate transaminase and alkaline phosphatase), haematological parameters (haemoglobin concentration, packed cell volume, red blood cell count and white blood cell count) in experimental rates.