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Diabetic controlling properties of Sri Lankan green leafy vegetable “*Malla*”

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“*Malla*” (*Oxalys zeylanica*) is a popular green leafy vegetable among Sri Lankan rural population. Traditionally, the leaves of this plant are used to treat urine infections, snake bites and diabetes. As a part of our continuing research to isolate antidiabetic compounds from Sri Lankan edible plants, we report herein the isolation of an antidiabetic compound from *Malla* leaves. The methanolic extract of dried *Malla* leaves gave a brown coloured solid upon addition of 98% ethanol. This brown precipitate was further separated into several subfractions using different separation techniques. All the subfractions showed antidiabetic activity. The fraction with the highest antidiabetic activity contained a compound that belongs to the flavonoid glycoside family. Our results provide scientific evidence to support the traditional practice of using *Malla* to treat and control of diabetes. Further studies are being carried out on to understand the behaviour of this compound as a diabetic controlling agent.

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