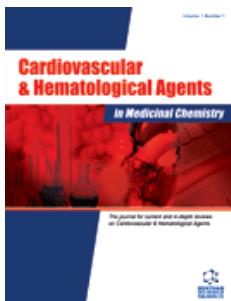




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Research Article

Effects of Some Indigenous Plants of North Karnataka (India) on Cardiovascular and Glucose Regulatory Systems in Alloxan-Induced Diabetic Rats

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Journal Name: Cardiovascular & Hematological Agents in Medicinal Chemistry
(Formerly Current Medicinal Chemistry - Cardiovascular & Hematological Agents)

Volume 15 , Issue 1 , 2017

DOI : 10.2174/1871525715666170712121347 (<https://doi.org/10.2174/1871525715666170712121347>)

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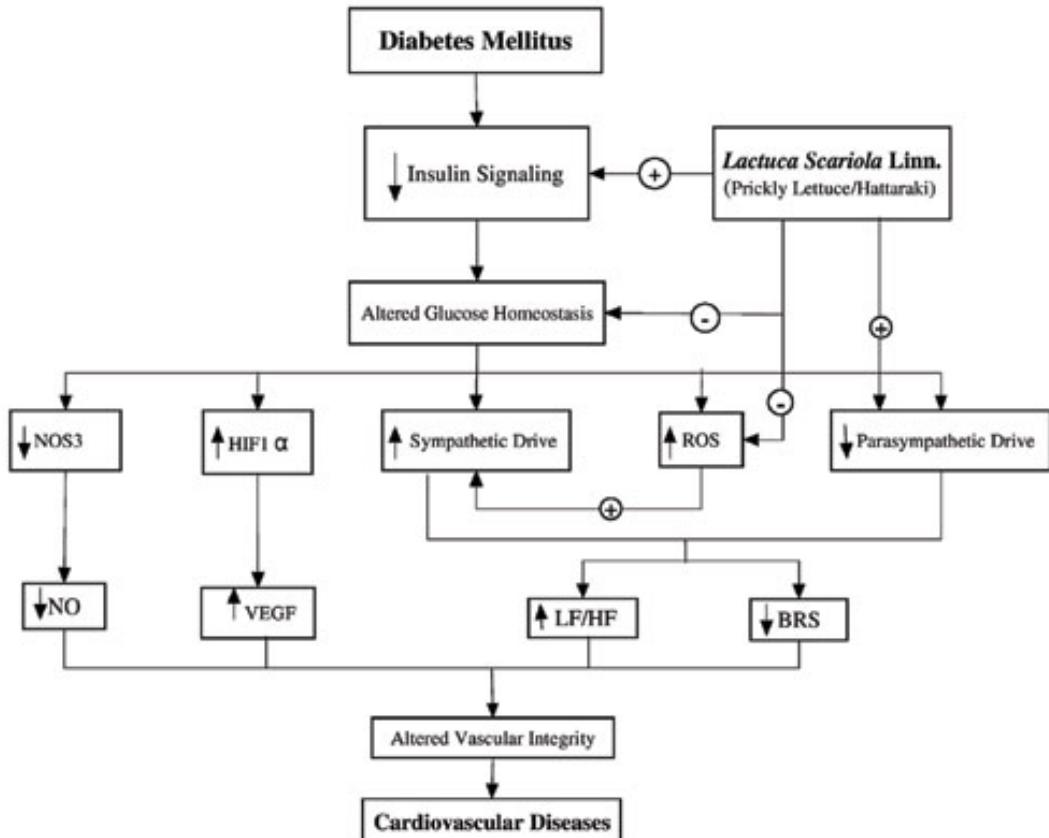
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Graphical Abstract:



Abstract:

Background: Kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus* Linn, Pundi), Chick pea (*Cicer arietinum* Linn, Chana) and Prickly lettuce (*Lactuca scariola* Linn, Hattarak) leaves are a few of indigenous plants which are routinely consumed by the people of north Karnataka in the diet. Studies on these plants showed some potential anti-diabetic efficacies.

Objectives: To examine the effect of leaves extracts of *Hibiscus cannabinus* Linn, *Cicer arietinum* Linn and *Lactuca scariola* Linn on cardiovascular integrity, glucose homeostasis and oxygen sensing cell signaling mechanisms in alloxan induced diabetic rats.

Method: In vitro and in vivo tests on glucose regulatory systems and molecular markers such as - NOS3, HIF- 1 α and VEGF were conducted in alloxan induced diabetic rats supplemented with all the three plant extracts. Electrophysiological analysis (HRV, LF: HF ratio, baroreflex sensitivity, BRS) and histopathology of myocardial tissues and elastic artery were evaluated in diabetic rats treated with *L. scariola* linn.

Results: Out of these three plant extracts, *Lactuca scariola* Linn supplementation showed significant beneficial effects on glucose homeostasis and oxygen sensing cell signaling pathways in alloxaninduced diabetic rats. Furthermore, effects of sub chronic supplementation of *Lactuca scariola* Linn aqueous extracts showed significant improvement in sympatho-vagal balance in diabetic rats by

increase of Heart Rate Variability (HRV) and regaining of Baroreflex Sensitivity (BRS). These results were also corroborated with myocardial and elastic artery histopathology of *Lactuca scariola* Linn supplemented diabetic rats.

Conclusion: These findings indicate an adaptive pathway for glucose homeostasis, oxygen sensing cell signaling mechanisms and cardio protective actions in alloxan – induced diabetic rats supplemented with *Lactuca scariola* Linn extracts.

Keywords: North Karnataka (India) Plants, *Hibiscus cannabinus* Linn, *Cicer aritinum* Linn, *Lactuca scariola* Linn, glucose homeostasis, HIF-1 α , VEGF, HRV, BRS, histopathology of artery.

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Article Details

VOLUME: 15

ISSUE: 1

Year: 2017

Page: [49 - 61]

Pages: 13

DOI: 10.2174/1871525715666170712121347

(<https://doi.org/10.2174/1871525715666170712121347>)

Price: \$65

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