

THE ANTI COAGULATION EFFECT OF *Euphorbia hirta* (SNAKE WEED) ON THE HUMAN BLOOD

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at exploring, The Anti coagulation effect of *Euphorbia hirta* (snake weed) On the Human blood. The extract made for the study, consists of 6 ml of distilled water Mixed with 4 g whole weed, crushed to get the extract. The technique used to detect the Clot is Photo-Optical method of detection. The study finds that the clotting does not prevail when apt extract is mixed in Blood.

KEYWORDS: Anti Coagulation, *Euphorbia hirta*, Photo-Optical Method

Anticoagulants in clinical laboratories can be defined as additives that prevent blood and/or plasma from clotting, ensuring that the constituent to be measured is non- significantly prior to the analytical processes. Anticoagulation occurs due to the binding of calcium ions as in EDTA, CITRATE or by inhibiting thrombin activity like HEPARI- NATES, HIRUDIN. (Essentials of Clinical Pathology, Shirish M kawthalkar, 2018)

Anticoagulant commonly used for hematological investigations is Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), which is also known as Sequestrene, or Versene. It is the most commonly used anticoagulant for routine Hematological investigations.

The commonly used salts of EDTA are Disodium (Na_2) and Dipotassium (K_2). International committee for standardization in Hematological investigations recommends dipotassium EDTA since it is more soluble. Concentration 1.2 to 2.0 mg/ml of blood based on anhydrous EDTA. (W.H.O, use of anticoagulants in diagnostic laboratory investigations, 2002).

Euphorbia hirta

It belongs to the plant family *Euphorbiaceae*; distributed throughout the hotter parts of India and Australia, usually found in waste places along the road sides. Also known as Snake Weed; it is a frequent used weed in Indian system of medicines for treatment of various diseases. Further its chemical extraction includes important chemicals like Gallic acid, 2, 4, 6-tri-o-galloyl-beta-d-

glucose, choline, camphol, quercitrin etc. (*Euphorbia hirta* : its chemistry, traditional and medicinal uses, and pharmacological activities, Sunil Kumar, Rashmi Malhotra and Dinesh kumar., 2010).



(Source, Wikipedia)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Photo-optical technique of detection of coagulation of blood is used here. This technique involves the change in optical density or turbidity of the sample as the fibrin formation takes place. The results are usually recorded as the time taken to clot. (Table 1)

4 grams of fresh whole plant is taken and crushed with the help of 6ml of distilled water to obtain the plant extract. Three test tubes and one commercially available EDTA (k3) tube is taken. Label the test tubes as t1, t2, p and k3 where t1 and t2 stands for test, p stands for plain and k3 for EDTA. Add the samples of plant extract and whole blood to the test tubes as per the quantities prescribed in the following table:

Table 1: Samples Quantity for Photo Optical Technique

Sample	t1	t2	P	EDTA
Plant Extract	0.5ml	1ml	-	-
Whole Blood	1.5ml	2ml	1ml	1.5ml

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RESULTS

Four test tubes are taken and labeled as t1, t2, P and EDTA (commercially available, k3), After fifteen minutes, the P test tube is partially clotted, while there is no clot formation in rest of the test tubes, Ater 25 minutes, blood in t1 test tube is partially clotted, in P test tube it is completely clotted, while in others there is no clot in the blood, After 35 minutes, blood in t1 and P test tubes is clotted while there is no clot formation in blood in t2 and EDTA test tubes. This is same even after 12 hours indicating that there is no clot formation when appropriate concentration of *Euphorbia hirta* plant extract is added to the human blood. Also, After 12 hours when the blood samples in these test tubes (t2 and EDTA) are observed

under microscope (100x oil), it shows the crenation and spherocytic structure of erythrocytes which is a point of similarity between the *Euphorbia hirta* plant extract and EDTA, when prolonged stored. (Essentials of clinical pathology, Shirish M kawthalkar., 2018). (Figure 1, 2)

Ethical Cosideration

The blood used in this study protocol is collected from the same person (author) with my own choice, I have allowed the phlebotomist (from my college) to take the blood with my own concern.

Following are the observations for Photo Optical Technique: (Table 2, 3)

Table 2: Photo Optical Technique Observation

TIME TAKEN BY BLOOD TO CLOT	t1	t2	P	EDTA
Ater 15 minutes	No clot (NC)	No clot (NC)	Partially clotted	No clot (NC)
After 25 minutes	Partially clotted	NC	Clotted (C)	NC
After 35 minutes	Clotted (C)	NC	C	NC
After 1 hour	C	NC	C	NC
After 2 hours	C	NC	C	NC
After 5 hours	C	NC	C	NC
After 12 hours	C	NC	C	NC

Table 3: Similarities in t2 and EDTA test tube (prolonged storage)

SIMILARITIES	EDTA BLOOD SLIDE	PLANT EXTRACT BLOOD SLIDE
Crenation and spherocytic c change in RBCs	Present	Present



Figure 1: Clotted Blood



Figure 2: Blood containing Snake weed extract (No Clot Formed)



Figure 3: Anticoagulant Blood in EDTA Tube

DISCUSSION

Euphorbia hirta v/s EDTA

In clinical laboratories, the most commonly used anti-coagulant is ETHYLENE DIAMINE TETRA-ACETIC ACID (EDTA). It is economically expensive when compared with the number of clinical investigations done every day in hospitals and clinical laboratories. If this weed extract is somehow substituted with EDTA. This can be proved as a boon in the Medical Laboratory science especially in developing countries like India. It needs further research and attention so that it can be a cheapest source of anticoagulant in India.

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