# EFFECTS OF Origanum Vulgare ON SOME SPERMS PARAMETERS, BIOCHEMICAL AND SOME HORMONES IN ALLOXAN DIABETIC MICE

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تأثيرات مستخلص نبات المردقوش على بعض معايير النطف ، الكيماحياتية وبعض قياسات الهرمونات في الفئران المستحث فيها داء السكري باستخدام الالوكزان كاظم جهيد كاطع - جامعة واسط

#### الخلاصة

تم دراسة تاثير نبات المردقوش على خصوبة ذكور الفئران البيض باستخدام الفحوصات التالية (قياس مستوى هرمون التيستوسترون ، والهرمون اللوتيني والهرمون المحفز لنمو الجريبات المبيضية ، حيوية النطف و نشاط النطف ، حركة النطف والتشوهات) وقياس تركيز مستوى انزيم ال GOT وGPT وALP وقياس تحليل الدهون ،جميعها درست للفئران الطبيعية (السيطرة) والفئران المستحث فيها داء السكرى باستخدام الالوكزان.

حقنت الفئران المستحدث فيها داء السكري باستخدام الالوكزان بمستخلص نبات المردقوش لمدة ٣ اسابيع وبجرعة 18, غم/كغم من وزن الجسم ، اظهرت االنتائج نقصان في مستوى الكلوكوز للفئران المستحدث فيها داء السكري ، وزيادة في مستوى هرمون التيستوستيرون والهرمون اللوتيني والهرمون المحفز لنمو الجريبات المبيضية ، وقلة في نسبة الحيامن الميتة والتشوهات وزيادة فعالية الحيامن وانخفاض في مستوى انزيم ال GOT, GPT, ALP وتحليل الدهون مقارنة مع حيوانات السيطرة.

### ABSTRACT

The influence of Origanum Vulgare on male fertility by using following tests (measurement of testosterone, LH and FSH level, sperm viability, activity, motility and abnormalities) and on GOT, GPT, AL.Ph. and Lipid profile status was studied in normal and alloxan diabetic mice.

Alloxan diabetic mice were injected with Origanum Vulgare extract for 3 weeks at a dosage of 0.18 g/kg body weight. The Alloxan diabetic mice showed significantly decreased in serum glucose level. however testosterone, LH and FSH level were increased and decreased in dead sperms ,

abnormalities and increase motility, decrease in GOT, GPT, AL.Ph. and lipid profile, in alloxan diabetic mice.

### INTRODUCTION

Origanum vulgare is a species of <u>Origanum</u>, native to <u>Europe</u>, the <u>Mediterranean region</u> and southern and central <u>Asia</u>. It is a <u>perennial herb</u>, growing to 20-80 cm tall, with opposite <u>leaves</u> 1-4 cm long. The <u>flowers</u> are purple, 3-4 mm long, produced in erect spikes(Faleiro and Leonor, 2005).

Oregano has an <u>antioxidant</u> activity, due to a high content of <u>phenolic</u> acids and <u>flavonoids</u> (Dragland and Steinar, 2003). Additionally, oregano act as <u>antimicrobial</u> against food-borne pathogens such as Listeria monocytogenes, both of these characteristics may be useful in both health and <u>food</u> <u>preservation</u>. In Philippines, oregano (Coleus aromaticus) is not commonly used for cooking but is rather considered as a primarily medicinal plant, useful for relieving children's coughs.

Main constituents include <u>carvacrol</u>, <u>thymol</u>, <u>limonene</u>, <u>pinene</u>, <u>ocimene</u>, and <u>caryophyllene</u>. The leaves and flowering stems are strongly <u>antiseptic</u>, <u>antispasmodic</u>, <u>carminative</u>, <u>cholagogue</u>, <u>diaphoretic</u>, <u>emmenagogue</u>, <u>expectorant</u>, <u>stimulant</u>, <u>stomachic</u> and mildly <u>tonic</u>. Oregano is taken by mouth for the treatment of <u>colds</u>, <u>influenza</u>, mild <u>fevers</u>, <u>indigestion</u>, stomach upsets and painful <u>menstruation</u>. It is strongly <u>sedative</u> and should not be taken in large doses, though mild teas have a soothing effect and aid restful sleep. Used typically, oregano is one of the best antiseptics because of its high thymol content (Faleiro and Leonor, 2005).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS PLANT MATERIAL

Origanum were purchased from the local market.

### **Extraction of Origanum compound (Alcohol Extract):**

(50g) of plant powder was extracted with ethanole (250 ml) by Soxhelt apparatus for 6 hours at 40-60°C, then the cooled solution was evaporated to dryness by rotary evaporator at 40°C and kept until used (Al-Jeboory, 1994).

### **ANIMALS CARE**

Fifty adult males of Swiss albino strain mice were obtained from animal house. 50 mice were used throughout this study , the age of the mice

were in the range of 2.5 to 3 months, and the weight in the range 25-30 grams. The animals were housed in small plastic cages, which were cleaned weekly by washing with soap and tap water and sterilized with 70% ethyl alcohol during the period of the study. The room temperature was maintained at  $(24\pm2)$  ° C, and the animals were exposed to 14 hours light program. Food of animal was pellet from local market.

## **INDUCTION OF DIABETES**

Diabetes was induced by a single intraperitoneal injection of alloxan monohydrated (5% w/v) in physiological saline at a dose of 150 mg/kg body weight in a volume of 0.1ml. The diabetic state was confirmed 48 hours after alloxan injection by weight loss (Benedict , 1911), and hyperglycaemia (Sasaki and Mastui 1972). There was 75% mortality in animals treated with alloxan. Surviving mice with a fasting blood glucose level higher than 200ml/dl were included in the study. five groups consisting of five animals for each group were maintained as follows:

## **EXPERIMENTAL GROUPS:**

#### **CONTROL GROUP:-**

Normal mice injected with 0.1ml of physiological saline .

### **GROUP** A:-

Normal mice injected with alloxan 0.1ml to induce diabetic mice.

### **GROUP B:-**

Diabetic mice treated with 0.1ml of Origanum extract after one week from treated with alloxan.

GROUP C:-	2 week
GROUP D:-	3 week

### **GENERAL PROCEDURE:-**

Blood sugar levels were determined periodically by heart puncture at the end of (1,2and 3 weeks) from treated with alloxan, the mice fasted over night and killed by cervical dislocation.

### **TREATMENTS OF MALE**

The testes were removed and placed in a sterile disposable Petri dish containing 1ml TCM-199 medium, then the epididymes were isolated and spermatozoa were obtained from the two tails of epididymes by mixing in 1ml TCM-199, and maintained at  $37^{\circ}$ C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator prior treatments.

### Microscopically examination:-

Spermatozoa were assessed according to WHO Laboratory manual for viability, activity, Motility and abnormalities.

### Testosterone, FSH, LH assay:

Bio merieux Italia S.P. a vidia campigliano, 58 50015-point A EMA  $(F_1)$  Italia miniVIDAS. Was used for the hormonal assay.

In testosterone , FSH , LH tests the assay principle combines an enzyme immuno assay sandwich method with a final fluorescent detection (ELFA).

## **BIOCHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS:-**

### **1.GOT,GPT.:-**

According to Reitman and Frankel (1957), blood was collected from the mice by heart puncture .The serum was separated by centrifugation at 2000 rpm for 10 min. Then, the serum was taken and treated as follows:

Two test tubes were used for each sample, the  $1^{st}$  one contained the blank reagent and  $2^{nd}$  contains the sample. These samples were treated as in the following:-

	GPT	GOT
Reagent 1 Reagent 2	1 ml	 1 ml
	Incubate for 5 min at 37°C.	
Serum	0.2 ml	0.2 ml
Mix and incubate at 37°C	 1 hour	
Reagent 3	1 ml	1 ml
Mix. Let stand for 20min at room temp		
NaOH 0.4 N	10 ml	10 ml

Mixed wait 5 min. measure under condition identical to those used for the standard curve.

Wavelength: 505 nm (490 - 520nm)

Activities of these two enzymes in the serum were estimated from the activity table attached with kit of each enzyme.

## **3.** ALP(alkaline phosphates)

Sample used in this test was the same of serum sample used for GPT& GOT tests. To estimate the activity of the ALP enzymes, procedure of Kind and King (1945) was used: four test tubes for each sample were prepared, the  $1^{st}$  one contain the sample, the  $2^{nd}$  is the blank sample, the  $3^{rd}$  contain the standard sample and the  $4^{th}$  is the blank reagent, as shown below:-

	Serum sample	Serum bank	S tandard	Reagent blank		
Reagent	2 ml	2ml	2 ml	2ml		
Incubate for 5 minutes at 37°C.						
Serum Reagent 2	50µl		— 5 0µ1			
	Incubate for exactly 15 min at 37°C.					
Reagent 3	0.5ml	0.5ml	0. 5ml	0.5ml		
	Mixed well or preferably vortex.					
Reagent 4 Serum Distilled water	0.5ml 	0.5ml 50µl —	0. 5ml 	0.5ml — 50µl		
Mix. Let stand for 10 minutes in the dark. Measure.						
Calculation=	OD serum samp	ole OD serum	blank	×n		

## **4. LIPID PROFILE Determination of Serum Total Cholesterol**

Total cholesterol in the serum was measured by enzymatic method, with the biomerux kit, France.

## Principle

The principle of this method was lysis of the cholesterol ester to produce cholesterol and fatty acids, then oxidized to produce the quinoemine: cholesterol ester  $\xrightarrow{cholesterd esterase}$  cholesterol + fatty acid cholesterol  $\xrightarrow{cholesterd oxidase}$  cholest  $-4 - en - 3 - one + H_2O_2$  $2H_2O_2 + phenol + 4$  amino antipyrine  $\xrightarrow{peroxidase}$  quinoe min  $e + 4H_2O_2$ 

## **Reagents:**

The reagent used in test is 1- phosphate buffer	a mixture of: 0.1 mol /L
2- phenol	15 mol /L
3- sodium cholate surfaetante	3.74 mmol/L
4- 4 samino antipyrine	0.5 mmol/L
5- peroxidase	≥1000 u/L
6- cholesterol oxidase	$\geq$ 200 u/L
7- cholesterol esterase	<u>≥</u> 125 u/L

## **Procedure:**

The procedure for this method is as follow:

	Reagent	Standard	Sample
	blank		
Standard 200 mg/dL	-	10 µL	-
Sample	-	-	10 µL
Working reagent	1 ml	1 ml	1 ml

After addition, mixing the content of every tube.

Allow staying at room temperature for 10 minutes or incubating at 37° C for 5 minuts and reading absorbance by spectrophotometer at 500 nm. The intensity of the produces color is directly proportional to total cholesterol concentration in the sample.

Total cholesterol (mmol/L) =  $\frac{\text{Abs. of sample}}{5.17}$ 

Abs. of standard

### **Determination of Serum Triglyceride**

Total triglycerides in the serum were measured by enzymatic with the (biomerieux kit, France).

## Principle

Total triglyceride determination depend on formation of quinonemine by using a group of enzymes as follows:

 $\begin{array}{l} Triglycerides \xrightarrow{lipase} glycerol + fatty \ acids \\ Glycerol + ATP \xrightarrow{glyverokinase} glycerol - 3 - phosphate + ADP \\ glycerol - 3 - phsphate \xrightarrow{glycerol - 3 - phosphate} H_2O_2 + dihydroxy - acetone \ phosphate \\ H_2O_2 + parachlorophenol + \ amino \ antipyrine \ 2 \xrightarrow{peroxidase} quinonei \ min \ e + H_2O_2 + HCL \end{array}$ 

## **Reagents:**

The reagent used in this test is a	mixture of:
1- Buffer pH 7.6	100 mmol/L
2- p – Cholesterol	2.7 mmol/L
3- Magnesium	4 mmol/L
4-4-Aminoantipyrine	0.4 mmol/L
5- Lipase	<u>&gt;</u> 1000 u/L
6- Glycerokinase	$\geq$ 200 u/L
7- Glycerol – 3- phosphate oxidase	$\ge$ 2000 u/L
8- Peroxidase	$\geq$ 200 u/L
9- ATP	0.8 mmol /L
10- Glycerol	2.29 mmol/L
10- Glycerol	2.29 mmol/L

## **Procedure:**

	Reagen	Standa	Sampl
	t blank	rd	e
Standard 200 mg/dl	-	10 µ L	-
Sample	-	-	10 µ L
Working	1 ml	1 ml	1 ml
reagent			

Gently mix the content of every tube after addition, allow staying at 20  $-25^{\circ}$ C temperature for 10 minute or incubating at 37°C for 5 minutes and reading spectrophotometrically at 505 nm. The intensity of the produced color is proportional to total triglyceride in the sample.

## **Calculation:**

Sample concentration = Abs. of sample × n(**n**= concentration of standard n= 2.29) Abs\_of standard Determination of Serum High Density Lipoprotein – Cholesterol (HDL – C):

HDL – Cholesterol the serum were measured by enzymatic method using biomeriex kit, France.

## 2.6.3.2 Reagents:

HDL –	Phosphotungstic acid	40 g/L
cholesterol		
precipitant	MgCl <sub>2</sub> . 6H <sub>2</sub> o	100 g/L
	рН 6.2	1 g/L

## **Procedure:**

	Reagent	Standard	Sample
	blank		
Distilled	50 µL	-	-
water			
HDL –	-	50 μL	-
calibrator			
Supernatant	-	-	-
Working	1 ml	1 ml	1 ml
reagent			

The working solution is the cholesterol enzymatic solution gently mix with the contents of every tube; after the addition let it stay at 20 - 25 for 10 minutes or incubate it for 5 minutes at  $37^{\circ}$ C and then read spectrophotometrically at 500 nm.

## **Calculation:**

HDL. Cho. (mmol/L) = <u>Abs</u> of sample  $\times$  1.42 Abs of standard (1.42 = the concentration of standard)

## **\*STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

Statistical analysis was performed to compare two different groups by using ANOVA-test. Statistical significance was determined at  $P<0.05^{\circ}$  (Al-Mohammed *et al.*, 1986).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:-**

The glucose level increased in serum of normal mice from that indicated to induced alloxan-diabetic mice as reported by(Anuradha and Ravikumar, 2001).(Table 1).

Alloxan diabetic mice treated with Origanum vulgare were shown reduced glucose level in serum from 196.50+3.06 to 163.41+2.84 (Table 1). They also conclude that Origanum vulgare improve insulin sensitivity and decrease insulin resistance in diabetic mice (Gupta *et al.*, 2002). The hypoglycaemia effects have been attributed to several mechanisms (Ethan Basch, *et al* 2003). The amino acid 4-hydroxyisoleucine in Origanum vulgare increased glucose-induced insulin release in pancreatic islet cells (Sauvairi *et al.*, 1998). This amino acid appeared to act only on pancreatic beta cells, Origanum vulgare reduced the area under the plasma glucose curve and increased the number of insulin receptors (Raghuram *et al.*, 1994).

In humans, Origanum vulgare exert hypoglycaemia effect by stimulating glucose-dependent insulin secretion from pancreatic beta cells (Ajabnoor and Tilmisary, 1998) as well as by inhabiting the activities of alphaamylase and sucrose to intestinal enzymes involved in carbohydrate metabolism (Amin, *et al* 1987).

The results showed significant increase (P<0.05) in body weight of alloxan diabetic mice treated with Origanum vulgare extract due to the Origanum vulgare extract contains tannins that lead to increase appetite (Hook , 1978 · Yeomans *et al.*,1997) , and contain vitamins C and A (Ingram , 1995) (Table 2)

While the increased testes weight due to Origanum vulgare extract contain coumarin which cause accumulation of water in testes .(Table 2).

Testosterone , LH , FSH level no significant decrease in alloxine male diabetic mice compared with control male (1.46+0.08 , 162+0.34 , 0.23+0.32 , 0.34+0.9 , 0.14+0.82 , 0.25+0.8) respectively. Origanum vulgare extract also increased the testosterone , LH and FSH levels (1.60+0.27 , 0.33+0.56 and 0.23+0.41) respectively after 3 weeks from treated. This increase due to that the Origanum vulgare contain diosgenin which have important roles in sex hormone synthesis. (WWW. Allnutritionalis . Com / mardagosh . Htm , 2006).(Table 3).

The results obtained no significant decrease in viability, dead spermatozoa, abnormalities (60+2.24, 33+0.83 and 24+3.38) respectively in alloxan diabetic male mice compared with control male (80+3.02, 29+1.02 and 21+2.03) respectively. While Origanum vulgare extract increased (Table 4).

The increase fertility of spermatozoa due to increase the level of testosterone in serum (Vora,2000 and Dean,2004).

Table 5 showed increased in triglyceride total cholesterol and HDLcholesterol 200.69+0.94 , 253.6+3.02 and 194.43+1.88 in alloxan-diabetic mice 170.51+3.32 , 204.91+4.33 and 166.22+3.41 respectively to compared with control 173.68+4.35 , 208.32+3.41 and 170.5+4.02 respectively. Origanum vulgare also lower serum TG, chol. and HDL-Chol. after 3 weeks. These effects may be due to saponins ,alkaloids, or to the high fibber content of the Origanum vulgare.(Hebel, *et al* 1997;Ethan Basch *et al.*, 2003).This study have ability of Origanum vulgare to significantly reduced of GOT, GPT, ALPH, in alloxan mice from 184.31+4.81 , 70.33+4.83 and 64.34+1.08 respectively to 190.03+1.44 , 72.23+4.11 and 68.82+4.05 respectively after 3 weeks from treated with Origanum vulgare.(Table 6) The mechanism of action is unknown but may be due to the saponine, alkaloids, tanin and rating or to the high fibre content of the Origanum vulgare act as antimicrobial and protect the liver cells from damage (Katzer , 2000).

**Differences A, B, C are significant (P<0.05) to compression rows** 

B Treated with 0.1 ml of origanum extract after different period of alloxan treatment		A Treated wi	Cont	Grou	
D 3 weeks	C 2 weeks	B 1 week	th alloxan	trol	sdn
A 168.84 <u>+</u> 2.55	C 174.82 <u>+</u> 3.71	C 186.41±2.03	B 196.50 <u>+</u> 3.06	A 163.41±2.84	Glucose mg/dl ( mean +SE)

Table (1):- Serum glucose levels in control and alloxan diabetic mice

Treate Orig after d of allo	d with 0. anum ex lifferent xan trea	1 ml of tract period tment	A Treated wi	Con	Gro
D 3 weeks	C 2 weeks	B 1 week	th alloxan	trol	sdn
34.33 <u>+</u> 1.96	33.56±2.92	30.46±1.83	29.82 <u>+</u> 2.02	$31.16 \pm 1.44$	Initial B.W.(gm) ( mean +SE)
0.27 <u>+</u> 2.30	0.25±1.08	0.24 <u>+</u> 1.26	0.21 <u>+</u> 1.43	$0.23\pm0.92$	Testes W.(mg/100mg B.W) ( mean +SE)

Table (2):- Initial B.W. and Testes W. in control and alloxan diabetic mice

Differences A, B, C are significant (P<0.05) to compression rows

Treate Origan diffe allo	B ed with 0 num extr erent per xan trea	0.1 ml of act after 'iod of tment	A Treated wi	Con	Gro
D 3 weeks	C 2 weeks	B 1 week	th alloxan	trol	sdn
A 1.60±0.27	A 1.57±0.23	C 1.51±0.09	B 1.46±0.08	A 1.62±0.34	Testosterone(ngm/ml) ( mean +SE)
A 0.33±0.56	C 0.28±0.48	C 0.26±0.43	B 0.23±0.32	A 0.34±0.9	LH(ngm/ml) ( mean +SE)
A 0.23±0.41	A 0.22±0.93	C 0.19±0.70	B 0.14±0.82	A 0.25±0.8	FSH(ngm/ml) ( mean +SE)

Table (3):- Serum Testosterone , LH , FSH levels in control and alloxan diabetic mice

Differences	Treated with 0.1 ml of origanum extract after different period of alloxan treatment			A Treated wi	Con	Gro
A, B, C are sig	D 3 weeks	C 2 weeks	B 1 week	ith alloxan	trol	sdn
nificant (P<0.05) to compres	A 75±2.94	C 70 <u>+</u> 4.02	C 70 <u>+</u> 3.63	B 60 <u>+</u> 2.24	A 80±3.02	Sperms activity % (µ+SE)
ssion rows	A 31±1.92	C 40±2.01	C 38±1.33	B 33±0.83	A 29±1.02	Dead sperms % (µ+SE)
	A 21±2.20	A 19±1.10	A 21 <u>+</u> 2.22	B 24 <u>+</u> 3.38	A 21 <u>+</u> 2.03	Abnormalities sperms( µ +SE)

Table (4):- Sperms activity, Dead sperms and Abnormalities sperms in control and alloxan diabetic mice

Differences A,
В,
C are significant (
P<0.05)
to compression r
OWS

Gro	sdn	Triglyceride mg/dl (µ+SE)	Cholesterol mg/dl (µ+SE)	HDL-cholesterol mg/dl (µ+SE)
Сон	trol	A 170.51±3.32	A 204.91±4.33	A 166.22 <u>+</u> 3.41
A				
Treated wi	th alloxan	B 200.69±0.94	B 253.6 <u>+</u> 3.02	B 194.43±1.88
1 ml of tract period tment	B 1 week	C 186.42±3.45	C 236.61 <u>+</u> 4.05	C 186.32 <u>+</u> 2.45
h 0. 1 ex ent trea	С			
d wit anun liffer xan	2 weeks	C 188.36±4.02	C 234.73±1.94	C 182.31±3.63
eate origa er d allo	D			
Tre o aft of	3 weeks	A 173.68 <u>+</u> 4.35	A 208.32±3.41	A 170.5±4.02

Table (5):- Serum Triglyceride, Cholesterol and HDL-cholesterol levels in control and alloxan diabetic mice

Differences A, B, C are significant (P<0.05) to compression rows

Treated with 0.1 ml of origanum extract after different period of alloxan treatment			A Treated wi	Con	Gro
D 3 weeks	C 2 weeks	B 1 week	th alloxan	trol	sdn
A 190.03±1.44	C 219.86±1.84	C 221.82 <u>+</u> 3.61	B 254.21±1.88	A 184.31 <u>+</u> 4.81	GOT mg/dl (mean+SE)
A 72.23 <u>+</u> 4.11	C 77.72 <u>+</u> 1.35	C 76.86±1.34	B 88.63 <u>+</u> 4.91	A 70.33 <u>+</u> 4.83	GPT mg/dl ( mean +SE)
A 68.82+4.05	C 83.30 <u>+</u> 2.63	C 82.44±1.93	B 87.35±5.92	A 64.34±1.08	AL.Ph. mg/dl (mean +SE)

Table (6):- Serum GOT, GPT and AL.Ph. levels in control and alloxan diabetic mice

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