

# The Effect of *Datura Innoxia* Seeds and Leaves Contents on Albino Wister Rats

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Research Article

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## Abstract

The aim of the study was to evaluate the toxic effect of *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves on experimental rats by determining the elements content of seeds and leaves, the chemical compounds in aqueous and methanolic extracts of seeds and leaves and the chemical compounds in the stomach content of rats. Seeds and leaves were collected from El-Obied, North Kordofan State, Sudan, in October, 2016. The aqueous and methanol extracts were carried out by using maceration method and soxhelt apparatus respectively. Sixty five male albino wister rats, three months old and with an average body weight ranged 110-120 g, were randomly divided into thirteen groups, consisting of five rats in each group. Group 1 served as control and fed with normal rats food and water for thirty days. Groups 2, 6 and 10 administered aqueous seeds extract, groups 4, 8 and 12 received methanol seeds extract, groups 3, 7 and 11 received aqueous leaves extracts, groups 5, 9 and 13 received methanol leaves extract, all the groups received the same type of extract were administered 40, 60 and 80 mg/kg body weight respectively. The extracts administered to the rats intra gastrically using cathodal tube daily for thirty days. The elements in the leaves and seeds (K, Ca, S, Si, Cl, Fe, Al, P, Mg, Ti, Mn, Zn, Sr; Cu, V, Br and Zr) were determined by energy-dispersive X-ray fluorescence (EDXRF) spectroscopy. K content was the highest in seeds ( $5.469 \pm 0.021\%$ ), Ca and S the highest in leaves ( $2.461 \pm 0.019\%$ ,  $1.254 \pm 0.022\%$  respectively). The elements Ti, Mn, Sr, V, Br and Zr were detected in the leaves with range concentration 0.062-0.002%. The elements Si, Cl, Fe, Al, P, Mg and Zn concentration in seeds varied from 0.002 to 0.942% and in leaves varied from 0.014 to 0.346%. The concentration of these elements did not exceed the standard dangerous toxic levels. The effects of oral administration of leaves and seeds extracts to 60 healthy rats over 30 days were evaluated by monitoring the chemical changes of stomach contents. The analysis by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) of aqueous and methanolic extracts revealed the presence of alkaloids (scopolamine, atropine and hyoscyamine), fatty acids, esters, amides, amino acids, ketones, coummarins, terpinoids, phenols, alcohols and hydrocarbons compounds. New compounds appeared in the stomach contents in the treated groups and this suggest that some compounds were metabolized and circulated in the body after the oral administration of leaves and seeds extract. The study concluded that the toxicity of seeds and leaves (methanolic and aqueous) extracts are nearly have the same toxic effects on rats due to their same active ingredients (alkaloids) and the oral administration of the extracts was found to be safe up to 40 mg/kg.

**Keywords :** Chemical Elements; Stomach Contents; Aqueous Extract; Methanolic Extract

## Introduction

The applications of medicinal plants in most developing countries for the treatment of various diseases have been widely observed by Educational Scientific, United Nations and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 1996) [1]. The medicinal properties of plants could be based on the antimicrobial, antioxidant and antipyretic effects of the secondary metabolite in them [2]. According to World Health Organization (WHO), medicinal plants would be the best source to obtain a variety of drugs [3]. The medicinal plants are widely used by all

sections of community, whether directly as folk remedies or the medicaments of the different indigenous systems as well as in modern medicine system [4]. *Datura* species are herbaceous, leafy annuals and short-lived perennials which can reach up to 2 m in height, belongs to the classic “witches’ weeds”, along with deadly nightshade, henbane, and mandrake. Most parts of the plant are toxic, and have a long history of use for causing delirious states and death. It was well known as an essential ingredient of potions and witches brews [5]. Several

species of datura have been used and are still extensively used in many parts of the world as healing and as hallucinogenic plants. The medicinal and hallucinogenic effects are caused by tropane alkaloids: atropine, hyoscyamine and scopolamine. These are fine and medicinal when taken in small doses but have very harmful effects when taken in large quantities causing delirium, loss of body control, cramps and eventual death. The accidental occurrence of seeds of *D. stramonium* found in sorghum flour from a mill in Moshupa village caused temporary memory losses to a number of people in the village in May 1998 [6]. Traditional medicine uses flowers, leaves and seed of *D. innoxia* medically treat for skin eruptions, colds, and nervous disorders [7]. It has been used in the past as an antispasmodic, hallucinogenic, hypnotic and narcotic and also in the treatment of insanity, impotence, asthma, diarrhea, as an analgesic, to control fever, kill parasites, and skin diseases [8].

## Materials and Methods

### Plant material (seeds and leaves)

*D. innoxia* seeds and leaves were collected from Elobied, North Kordofan state, Sudan in October, 2016. The plant was authenticated by a plant taxonomist at the Department of Botany Faculty of Science University of Kordofan to be *Datura innoxia*. The plant leaves and seeds were cleaned, shade-dried and grinded by a mechanical grinder.

### Animals (rats)

Sixty five male wister rats, three months old and with an average body weight ranged (110-120g), were used in the present study. The rats were clinically healthy and housed within the premises of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Sudan University, Khartoum.

Animal housed under standard husbandry conditions (30°C ± 2°C, 60–70% relative humidity and 12hour day-night cycle) and fed on the rat diet (flour 55.6%, meat 35%, edible oil 7.5%, sodium chloride 1.2% and vitamins and minerals 0.7%) and water provider. Animal experiments were designed and conducted in accordance with the guidelines of institutional animal ethical committee.

## Methods

### Extraction by petroleum ether and methanol

The extraction was carried out according to method described by Sukhdev et al., [9]. 600 g of each coarsely powdered sample (seeds and leaves) was successively extracted with 1200 ml of petroleum ether and 1200 ml of methanol using soxhlet extractor apparatus. Extraction was carried out for about four hours for petroleum ether and eight hours for methanol till the color of solvents at the last siphoning time returned colorless. Solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure using rotary evaporator apparatus. Finally the extracts allowed to air till complete dryness.

### Extraction by water

For aqueous extract, 600 g of each coarsely powdered sample

(seeds and leaves) was extracted with 3000ml of distilled water and heat to 70°C for three hours and filtered through what man paper No. 0.1 and dried further by freeze drier.

### Preparation of stock solutions

The preparation of stock solution was done by dissolving 5 g of each extract in 12.5 ml of 99.9% ethyl alcohol and completed to 250 ml with distilled water and then 2ml; 3ml and 4ml (40 mg, 60 mg and 80 mg) were taken from the stock solution and used as doses for rats orally.

### Experimental Design

A total of sixty five male wister albino rats divided into thirteen groups containing five each. Group 1 served as control and fed with normal rat food and water for thirty days. Groups 2, 3 and 4 received methanol seeds extract with dose of 40, 60, 80mg/kg body weight/day respectively and Groups 5, 6 and 7 received methanol leaves extract with dose of 40, 60, and 80 mg/kg body weight /day respectively. Groups 8, 9 and 10 received aqueous seeds extract with dose of 40,60, 80 mg/kg body weight/day respectively and Groups 11, 12 and 13 received aqueous leaves extract with dose of 40, 60, and 80 mg/kg body weight /day respectively. The extract administered to the rats intra gastrically using catheter tube for thirty days. The method was prepared according to the Standard Method of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD 425) [10]. The daily feed intake was monitored in the rats until termination of the experiment. On the day thirty stomach contents were collected for chemical compounds screening.

### Biological samples preparation for GC-MS analysis

The refrigerated samples allowed equilibrating to room temperature for 5 minutes before extraction. The minimum volume of gastric content is 4ml [9].

### Preparation of stomach contents

The samples were shaken well by hand for 3 minutes to homogenize. The whole sample placed into a beaker and mixed well with approximately equal volume of distilled water for 3 minutes using a vortex. After shaking the sample was allowed to stand for few minutes then two layers separated. 4ml of the upper layer were taken using a disposable plastic pipette and put into a separatory funnel.

### Preparation of stomach contents (acidic extract)

The pH of the sample in the separatory funnel adjusted to 3 with 0.5ml of dilute HCl. After the adjustment of the pH to 3, 20 ml of dichloromethane was added to the sample in the separatory funnel and the mixture was shaken for 3 minutes and after that two layers appeared. The lower layer (dichloromethane layer) was separated from the upper layer (aqueous layer) and filtered through a filter paper contain 10.0 gm of anhydrous sodium sulphate to absorb water.

### Preparation of stomach contents (basic extract)

To the aqueous layer of stomach contents in the acidic extract 200 µl of 25% ammonium hydroxide was added to adjust the

pH of the sample to 10, then 6 ml of dichloromethane was added to the mixture in the separatory funnel and vortex for 10 sec. and then allowed to settle. After the settlement two layers appeared. The lower layer was separated from the upper layer and filtered through a filter paper contained 10g of anhydrous sodium sulphate. The acidic and basic extracts were mixed; 3 ml of the mixture was taken and poured in a test tube. The mixture in the test tube was dried by nitrogen gas dryer. 0.5 ml of methanol was added to the dry mixture.

#### GC-MS analysis conditions

The chemical composition analysis of the samples were carried out by using GC/MS technique model -TQ8040 from Japan with capillary column (RTX-5MS), column oven temperature 800C, injection temp. 2500C, the sample was injected by using split mode, pressure 122 kpa, total flow 50 ml/min, column flow 1.80 ml/min, purge flow 6 ml/min, split ratio -1, helium as the carrier gas, ion source temp. 2000C, interface temp. 2500C, solvent cut time 2.5min, detector gain +0.30 kv, threshold 1000, start time 3min, end time 21.00 min, acquisition Mode Q3Scan, start m/z 25, end m/z 400, the oven temp. program start from 800C with rate 15 0C/min to 2000C with 1 min hold time to 2600C with rate 100C/min with 1min hold time to 2800C as final temp. with 2 min hold time.

#### Results and Discussion

The content of the elements K, Ca, S, Si, Cl, Fe, Al, P, Mg, Mn, Ti, Zn, Sr, Cu, V, Br and Zr was determined in *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves as shown in table 1. Eleven elements namely K, Ca, S, Si, Cl, Fe, Al, P, Mg, Zn and Cu were detected in varied concentration in *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves while Ti, Mn, Sr, V, Br and Zr were not detected in seeds but detected in leaves. Table 1 showed that the *Datura innoxia* seeds contain high percent of K compared to other elements detected in the seeds meanwhile the leaves contain high percent of Ca and S compared to other elements detected in leaves. The elements Ti, Mn, Sr, V and Br were found in low percentage in leaves (0.062, 0.035, 0.011, 0.005, 0.005 and 0.002% respectively). The elements Ti, Mn, Sr, V, Br and Zr were not detected in seeds. Cu and Zn were found in low percentage in both seeds and leaves. All the heavy metals concentrations found were under the internationally permitted limits, some of them are natural constituents of the environment and found in varying levels in the soil, ground and surface water. Some minerals are essential, required for normal metabolism of organisms and various physiological according to Martin and Coughtrey (1982) [11].

Elements	Seeds % (W/W)±SD	Leaves % (W/W)±SD
K	5.469± 0.021	0.570±0.003
Ca	0.037±0.001	2.461±0.019
S	0.037±0.002	1.254±0.022
Si	0.942±0.015	0.051±0.001
Cl	0.647±0.011	0.078±0.002

Fe	0.008±0.000	0.346±0.003
Al	0.012±0.005	0.226±0.008
P	0.08±0.001	0.080±0.007
Mg	0.012±0.007	0.068±0.015
Ti	0.000±0.000	0.062±0.003
Mn	0.000±0.000	0.035±0.001
Zn	0.002±0.000	0.014±0.000
Sr	0.000±0.000	0.011±0.001
Cu	0.000±0.000	0.008±0.001
V	0.000±0.000	0.005±0.002
Br	0.000±0.000	0.005±0.000
Zr	0.000±0.000	0.002±0.001

**Table 1:** Contents of elements in *Datura innoxia* leaves and seeds analyzed by EDXRF technique.

#### Chemical compounds of rats stomach contents (control group)

The chemical compounds screening of stomach contents of the control group identified by GC-MS analysis revealed 21 compounds. These compounds are as follows: Coummarins (Furan,2,5-bis(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)tetrahydro-3,4-dimethyl-, [2R-(2.alpha.,3-beta.,4-beta.,5-alpha.)]), Scoparone (2H-1Benzopyran-2-one,6,7- dimethoxy), amides N,N-Dimethyl-N-phenyl formamide, (N,N-di-sec-butyl- p-phenylene diamine, 3,3-Dimethyl-1-(2-carboxyphenyl) triazene, fatty acids and esters, (9-Oxononanoic acid, Butanoic acid,3-hydroxy-3-methyl-, (Ibuprofen), (Benzene acetic acid, alpha-,methyl-4-(2-methylpropyl), Acetic acid, Benzoic acid,3-methyl, phenyl-, isopentyl ester, Pentanoic acid, pentyl ester, Benzenz acetic acid,4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-,methyl ester, Pentanoic acid,1-methyl ester, Phenyl acetic acid propyl ester, Benzene acetic acid ethyl ester, Pentanoic acid, propyl ester. Phenolic compounds such as: Pentyl phenylacetate, phenols (Phenol,2,2,- methylenebis{6-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-ethyl, Phenyl,2,1-(1,1- dimethylethyl), Phenol,3-methyl-5-(1-methylethyl)-,methylcarbamate, Alpha Isomethyl ionone, Cyclohexane,2-ethenyl-1,3,3-trimethyl, and heterocyclic aromatic compounds (Pyridine,3-(1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl)-, Pyrrolidine,1-(2- chloroethyl)-, and monomers (3-(3-Pyridyl)acrylic acid).

#### Chemical compounds of rats stomach contents supplemented with 40 mg/kg methanol extract of seeds

The analysis by GC-MS showed the presence of 20 compounds. These compounds are as follows: Alkaloids (scopolamine, atropine, tropine, tropinone, 3-tropanone, pseudoecgonine methyl ester, apatropin, hyoscyamine, tropacocaine, tiglypseudotropin, homatropine, azerdine, 1-methyl and 8-azabi cyclo{3,2,1}octane-3,6-diol,acetate (ester)) and fatty acids (tropic acid, oleic acid, palmitic acid, azelaic acid and linoleic ethyl ester).

#### Chemical compounds of rats stomach contents treated with 40 mg/kg of methanol extract of leaves

The GC-MS analysis revealed 49 compounds. These compounds are as follows: Alkaloid compounds (scopolamine, atropine, tropine, tropinone, 3-tropanone, pseudoecgonine methyl ester, apoatropin, hyoscyamine, tropacocaine, tiglypseudotropin, benzoylecgonine, homatropine, N,N-dibenzoylhydrazine, pristane and 8-azabicyclo{3,2,1}octane-3,6-diol,acetate(ester), tegafur and N-tris(hydroxymethyl) methylglycine (tricine)), amides and amino acids compounds (d-tyrosine, tyrosine, N-tris(hydroxyl methyl) methyl glycine (tricine), benzonitrile,2-amino-, acryl amide (2-propenamamide)), fatty acids and esters ( palmitic acid, heptanoic acid, ethyl ester (cognac oil), benzeneacetic acid,4-hydroxy-, methyl ester, 9,12-octadecadienoic acid(Z,Z) (linolic acid), 9,12-octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-,ethyl ester (linoleic acid ethyl ester), 9,12-octadecadienoic acid methyl ester(E,E), 9,12-octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, methyl ester, oleic acid, glyoxylic acid, phenyl-ethyl ester, benzoyl formic acid (Phenyl glyoxylic acid), valeric acid, 2- hydroxyl- 4-,methyl methyl ester, plamitic acid, isovaleric acid, stearic acid,ethyl ester (octadecanoic acid ethyl ester), stearic acid (octadecanoic acid), glycerol,1-palmitate ethyl ester (hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester), thiocyanic acid, phenyl methyl ester, benzoic acid,2-chloroethyl ester, ketones compounds (ethanone,2-hydroxy-1-phenyl (acetophenone,2-hydroxy-), isonitroso acetophenone (oximinoacetophenone). thiophene-3-carboxylate. terpenoids ( limonene oxide,trans) and phenol compounds (tyrosol (4-(2-hydroxyethyl)phenol, 4-phenethylphenol, phenol,2-propyl-) and phenylglycol.

#### Chemical compounds of rats stomach contents treated with 40 mg/kg aqueous extract of leaves

The GC-MS analysis showed 15 compounds. These compounds are: Alkaloidal compounds (Scopolamine, Atropine, tropine, tropinone, 3-Tropanone, Pseudoecgonine methyl ester, Apoatropin, Hyoscyamine, Tropacocaine, Tiglypseudotropin, Benzoylecgonine, Homatropine and Tropic acid), Amino acids (Greatine(Glycine, N-(aminoiminomethyl)-N-methyl), fatty acids and esters (2-methylpyrazine-5-carboxylic acid, Azelaic acid, Oleic acid, Acetic acid, phenyl (Benzeneacetic acid), Valeric acid, 5-Aminovaleric acid, 3-methyl-, 3-Methyladipicacid, Butanoicacid,3-hydroxy-3-methyl-, Isovaleric acid,propylester, 9,12-Octadienoicacid(Z,Z), 9,12-Octadecadienylchloride, (Z,Z), 5,6-dihydro-5-methyluracil, 9,12-Octadecadienoicacid (Z,Z),methylester, n-Hexadecanoic acid (palmitic acid), d1-beta-phenyllactic acid (DL-alpha-Hydroxyhydrocininnamic acid), (Isovanillic acid), Hexanoic acid (13), Uric acid and VaniLlic acid), Terpenoidal compounds (Limonene oxide trans), ketone compounds (Gllacetophenone and Isocamphopinone) and hydrocarbon compounds (alkane (1-Fluorononane)).

#### Chemical compounds of rats stomach contents administered with 40 mg/kg aqueous extract of seeds

The GC-MS analysis revealed 18 compounds. These compounds are as follows: Alkaloidal compounds (Scopolamine, atropine, tropine, tropinone, 3-tropanone, pseudoecgonine methyl ester,

apoatropin, hyoscyamine, tropacocaine, tiglypseudotropin, benzoylecgonine, homatropine, tropic acid), amides compounds (Greatine (Glycine,N-(aminoiminomethyl)-N-methyl), fatty acids and esters (n-Butyric acid,2-ethylhexylester, Hexylisobutylcarbonate (carbonicacid) hexylisobutylester, Butanoic acid,octylester, 3-Hydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid (Isovanillic acid), Dehydroacetic acid, Uric acid ,VaniLlic acid), ketone compounds (Gllacetophenone), Coummarin compounds (2,4-Dihydroxy-2,5-dimethyl-3(2H)-furan-3-one, 4H-Pyran-4-one,2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl), Terpenoidal compounds (2-(hydroxymethyl)-2-nitro(glycerol), Limonene oxide trans) and Carbohydrates (Sucrose).

#### The new compounds detected in rats stomach contents treated with 40mg/kg methanolic extracts of seeds and leaves

Compounds detected in the stomach content of treated rats and not detected in the control group and the crude extracts are as follows: treated with methanol extract of seeds are: Cyclohexane,1-methyl-2-pentyl, Phthalic acid, mono butyl ester, 2-n-Heptylfuran, Diamyl phthalate, 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, butyl 2-ethyl ester, 1,2-Benzene dicarboxylic acid, 2-ethoxy-2-ethylester, Diethyl phthalate and tropic acid while the treated with methanol extract of leaves are: (Tricine, Benzonitrile,2-amino-, Tyrosine, d-Tyrosine, Isonitrosoacetophenone, Thiocyanic acid, phenyl methyl ester, Tegafur, Pristane, Glycerol,1-palmitate, N,N- Dibenzoylhydrazine, Tyrosol (4-(2-hydroxy ethyl) phenol, Benzoicacid,2-chloroethyl ester, Phenol,2-propyl-, 4-Phenethylphenol, Phenylglycol, Benzeneacetic acid,4- hydroxy-,methyl ester, Propanoic acid,2-methyl-,2-ethyl-3-hydroxyhexyl, Benzeneacetic acid4-hydroxy-, methyl ester, 3-Hexanol,3,5-dimethyl, Phenylethyl alcohol, Furan, tetrahydro-2-(methoxymethyl), Plamitic acid, ethyl ester, Acrylamide, Heptane,2,5,5-trimethyl, Tetrahydrofurylacrylate, Valericacid,2-hydroxyl-4-,methyl methyl ester, Benzoyl formic acid, Glyoxylic acid, phenyl-ethyl ester and Thiophene-3- carboxylate).

#### The new compounds detected in rats stomach contents after treatment with aqueous extracts of leaves and seeds

The new compounds detected in Stomach contents after administration with aqueous extracts of leaves and seeds are as follows: treated with aqueous extract of leaves are: 1,3-Dimethyl-3,4,5,6- tetrahyro-2(1H)-pyridinone, Isocamphopinone and Tropic acid while the treated with aqueous extract of seeds are: Tropic acid, and 1,3-Propanediol,2-(hydroxymethyl)-2-nitro(glycerol).

#### Discussion

The seeds and leaves of *Datura innoxia* were widely used in west Sudan for traditional medicine. Most of the population does not know the toxicity and lethality of seeds and leaves. The chemical screening of *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves (aqueous and methanol) extracts, revealed the presence of important pharmacological bioactive compounds mainly tropane alkaloids which are toxic at high concentrations, fatty acids, phenyls, phenyl propanoids, amino acids,

amides, terpenoids, esters, ketones, coumarins, quinones and flavonoids. The aqueous (seeds and leaves) extracts, methanol (seeds and leaves) extracts have similar effect to the experimental rats, because they all contain main alkaloidal compounds (atropine, hyoscyamine, tropacocaine, scopolamine, apoatropin) which have toxic effect.

## Conclusion

The plant leaves and seeds contain elements of vital important for human metabolism. No toxic heavy metals was detected such as As, Sb, Hg, Cr, Pb and Cd. The aqueous (seeds and leaves) extracts and methanol (seeds and leaves) extracts have similar effect to the experimental rats, because they all contain main alkaloidal compounds (atropine, hyoscyamine, tropacocaine, scopolamine, apoatropin) which have toxic effect. The toxicity from oral administration of 40 mg/kg daily of *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves (methanol and aqueous) extracts for thirty days was less than the toxicity from oral administration of 60 mg/kg and 80 mg/kg of *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves (methanol and aqueous) extracts, thus all rats which were oral administrated with the doses of 80 mg/kg daily were died within three weeks, main while the 75% of rats which were oral administrated with the doses of 60 mg/kg daily were died within thirty days. The lethal dose (LD50) of *Datura innoxia* seeds and leaves (methanol and aqueous) extracts in rats were nearly the same and parallel, that means they have the same efficacy due to their active ingredients (tropane alkaloids) this agree with the results of Mohammed A Abo Kutaifa et al., [12], in acute toxicity of aqueous and petroleum ether extracts of *Datura innoxia* leaves in mice. New compounds appeared in stomach contents in the treated groups and this suggest that some compounds were metabolized and circulated in the body after the oral administration of leaves and seeds extract.

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