

ANTITUSSIVE EFFECT OF SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS ON SULPHUR DIOXIDE INDUCED COUGH IN ANIMAL MODEL.

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Natural products have been used by human beings for treating different pathological conditions since the time immemorial. Numerous plants have been reported to have antitussive activity. The aim of our present study was to evaluate the ethanolic extract of *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (Carophyllaceae, Whole plant), *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* (Caesalpinaceae, Aerial parts) and *Fragaria nubicola* (Rosaceae, Whole plant) for antitussive activity at the doses of 200, 400 mg/kg in healthy albino rats. Cough is a symptom and also a defensive reflex of removing the noxious, irritating substances and pathogens from larynx, trachea and bronchi. Cough is usually considered as the disease, related to lungs. A number of substances are responsible for stimulation of cough reflexes. Among most common are dust, histamine and bronchoconstriction. *Arenaria serpyllifolia* is a small annual herb commonly called Thyme leaved sandwort, found in uncultivated land, arid meadows and cliffs. *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* is an ornamental plant usually 2 m in height, known as Peacock flower.

Fragaria nubicola grows in wooded valleys, forest margins and meadows. It is commonly known as wild strawberry. These plants have been used traditionally for cough suppression by different societies. In this study cough was induced by sulphur dioxide induction method. Animals were divided into eight groups of ten animals each and all the drugs were administered orally. Group I serve as control group while group II served as standard. A dose-dependent inhibition of cough was observed for all extract. At doses of 200, 400 mg/kg all three extracts were proved highly significant compared to standard. So it proves and supports traditional use of plants for relieving cough.