

## Assesment on Biological Activity of Adhatoda Vesica

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### ABSTRACT:

In healthcare system the medicinal plants are most commonly used in a whole world. The metabolites that is present in the extract of herbal plants that contain different chemical substance that may produce different therapeutic effects. The Adhatoda Vesica herbal plant that is most commonly used is a southeast region for the treatment of different microbial diseases. The methanolic extract of leaf and synthesis of AgNPs is able for the curing of different skin diseases and wound healing purpose. The Adhatoda Vesica plant contains a number of secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, saponins, amino acids, carbohydrate, flavonoids and proteins etc. A prolonged intense look of literature data revealed some important biological activities like antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antifertility, anti-ulcer, anti-tissue, anti-typhoid and anti oxidant, Immunomodulatory, hepatoprotective, and wound healing. The pharmacological and phytochemical review of Adhatoda Vesica realized the importance of the medicinal plants.

**Keywords:** Adhatoda Vesica, Microbiological activity, Phytochemistry and Metabolites.

### INTRODUCTION :

[1] Plants are the natural source of drugs that are used for the treatment and curing of various diseases generated by microorganisms such as bacteria and virus in the body of living organisms. The natural products are used to control the complication in the body of living beings. [2] The branches that used herbal medicines for the treatment of various pharmacological diseases are commonly called Ayurvedia, Unani, Homeopathy, Siddha etc. The whole principle of these ancient branches depend upon the availability of herbal plants. Different plants are rich source of chemical substance that is helpful for the analgesic and anti-inflammatory treatments. The Adhatoda Vesica and many others species contain high quantity of secondary metabolites, especially Vitamin C, used against for the treatment

of various biological activity includes anti-pyretic, anti-diabetic and oxytoxic. About 40% of medicines that are use for the curing of dangerous diseases have plant origins. In Southeast Asia the Adhatoda Vesica specie parts are used against throat irritations and skin disorders. Adhatoda Vesica contain large amount of alkaloids. The leaf and root extract of Adhatoda Vesica caused as medicines in form of tablets. The herbal medicine is slow reactive natural chemical with respect to synthetic drugs. The old medicinal system and modern studies suggested that the use of natural herbs as a medicine that improves the body resistance mechanism against the microorganism effect without any side effects.

### METHADODOLOGY : [3,4]

#### A) Plant material :

[3,4] The green plant materials, mainly leaves and stems, were collected from medicinal plant garden, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh in the month of June, 2012. The taxonomical identification of the plant was confirmed by National Herbarium, Bangladesh and the accession number was DACB-37880. The plant material was dried under shade, blended to powder and stored in air tight container.

#### B) Chemicals and Instruments :

All solvents and reagents were of analytical grade and were used without further purification. HPLC grade methanol (Sigma Aldrich, Germany) and water purified by Millipore purified system were used for analysis. Reference standard of vasicine (potency 100%) was supplied as donation by Square Herbal and Nutraceuticals Limited, Pabna, Bangladesh. Silica with mesh size 400-200 was used for column chromatography. TLC plate (Aluminium foil pre-coated with silica 60F254), UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) FT-IR (Shimadzu, Japan) and LCMS/MS (Shimadzu, Japan) were used for identification of vasicine. HPLC (Shimadzu, Japan) equipped with a manual

injector, a vacuum degasser, a multiple-wavelength UV/Visible detector (Shimadzu SPD 20A, Japan) and an ODS column namely Capcell Pak (150mm×4.6 mm i.d., 5 µm particle size) was used for quantitative estimation of purified vasicine

#### **.Extraction of plant material :**

The dried powdered material of *A. vasica* (250 gm) was placed in a Soxhlet apparatus and extracted with methanol (500 mL×3) at ambient temperature for 72 hrs. The combined methanolic extract was concentrated under reduced pressure in a rotary evaporator. The extract was then treated with aqueous solution of citric acid (1%) and was stirred at ambient temperature for 3 hrs. It was filtered and the clear solution thus obtained was extracted with chloroform (200 mL×3). The aqueous acidic layer was collected and then basified with ammonia solution to pH 9.5 and further extracted with chloroform (200 mL×3). The organic layers were collected and combined, dehydrated by anhydrous sodium sulphate (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and filtered. The chloroform extract was then evaporated to dryness in a rotary evaporator at a temperature not exceeding 45°C and the residue was triturated with a mixture of acetone and petroleum ether (1:1; 40 mL) and filtered. The filtrate was subjected to dryness at room temperature and an amorphous residue was obtained

#### **Preliminary screening for vasicine alkaloid :**

The amorphous residue was primarily screened for the presence of alkaloid with the alkaloidal reagents like Mayer's reagents, Dragendorff's reagents, Wager's reagent and Hager's reagent.

#### **Preparation of reagent Vasaka (Adhatodavasica) leaf:[5]:**

[5] Juice from *A. vasica* leaf was prepared by different methods. Firstly traditional bolus method (modified Put Pak Vidhi in which 100 g of fresh leaves of *A. vasica* were crushed using mortar and pestle, made into a bolus and it was covered with fresh leaves of *Syzigium cumini*. It was then covered with a layer (approximately 1½ inch thick) of paste of wheat flour, followed by a layer of clay paste and the ball (bolus) so obtained was dried at room temperature. The dried bolus was subjected to heat in a muffle furnace at 450°. During heating it was checked periodically and when the outer layer of the bolus became red hot and aroma of the wheat flour being baked emanated (it takes approximately 15-20 min of heating), it was taken out. The bolus was opened while hot and

the leaf paste was squeezed through 4 folds of muslin cloth to obtain juice. The volume of the juice obtained was measured. This sample was coded as S-1. In the traditional method, the bolus is subjected to laghu puta (heat), using cow dung cakes. We modified the method slightly by heating the bolus in a muffle furnace.

The second method employed was steaming, which was carried out using two different methods. In the first method, 100 g of fresh leaves were crushed using mortar and pestle and placed in a steel vessel (without adding any water to the leaves) and heated at 121° (15 lb pressure) for 30 min. The crushed leaves were taken in 4 layers of muslin cloth and squeezed in order to obtain juice out of it. The juice obtained was measured. This sample was coded as S-2. In the second method, 100 g of fresh leaves were crushed using mortar and pestle and 100 ml of distilled water was added to it and it was subjected to heat at 121° (15 lb pressure) for 30 min. The steamed material was taken in a 4-layered muslin cloth and squeezed in order to obtain juice out of it.

The juice obtained was measured. This sample was coded as S-3. *Vasika Swarasa* (manual) was the third method employed in which, 100 g of fresh leaves were triturated to a fine paste in a stone mortar. It was taken in 4 layers of muslin cloth and squeezed by hand to take out the juice. This sample was coded as S-4. The fourth method used was *Vasika Swarasa* (using a grinder). One hundred grams of fresh leaves were ground in a mixer/juicer with 100 ml of water and filtered through 4 layers of muslin cloth and squeezed by hand to take out the juice. This sample was coded as S-5. Finally, the juice was prepared from dry leaf powder 15, where to 100 g of dry leaf powder, 200 ml of water was added and macerated for 24 h at room temperature. The above mixture was taken in 4 layered muslin cloth and squeezed to take out the juice. The juice obtained was measured. This sample was coded as S-6.

#### **Preparation of the extract [6]:**

[6] The leaves of *Adusa* were oven dried at 45°C. The dried leaves were powdered using a grinder. The powder thus obtained, was extracted in hydro alcoholic solution. For the extraction, 40 g of sample powdered drug with 320 ml hydro alcohol solvent was used at different concentration's of ethanol, temperature as per the experimental plan (Table.1)

**Table 1: Boundaries of the experimental domain and spacing of the Compositional variable levels for Adhatoda leaf**

Independent variables	Symbol code	Low variables	High variables
Temperature (0C)	A	60	80
Concentration of ethanol	B	30	70

**Experimental design for extraction of Adhatoda leaf:**

The Box-Behnken Design from RSM was used for designing the experimental combinations. The variables used were temperature (0C), concentration of ethanol (%), (% of alcohol in hydro-alcoholic solvent) and time (h). The tables were generated using Minitab version 18 which were followed to run the extracts with specified conditions.

**FOR EXTRACTION:**

All the extractions were carried out according to randomized design generated through RSM by

Minitab 18 for yield response with temperature and concentration variation. The extract was cooled, filtered through Whatman filter paper No 1. After that water bath was used to concentrate the extract then calculated yield in grams (g) for every extraction Plant extract yield (EY): The yield of the extract was calculated from the equation  $W1/W2 \times 100$  where, W1 is the weight of extract after evaporation of solvent and W2 is the dry weight of the plant sample.

**9.Plant Description:**

Adhatoda vasica Nees. Belongs to the medicinal family Acanthaceae.



**Fig: 1 whole plant**

Be 1-3 feet in height with many long opposite branches. Leaves are large and lance-shaped. Stem herbaceous above and woody below. Leaves opposite and exstipulate. Flower spikes or panicles, small irregular zygomorphic, bisexual, and

hypogynous. It has capsular fourseeded fruits. The flowers are either white or purple in colour. Its trade name Vasaka is based on Sanskrit name. [7] Inflorescences in axillary spicate cymes, densely flowered; peduncles short; ovate,

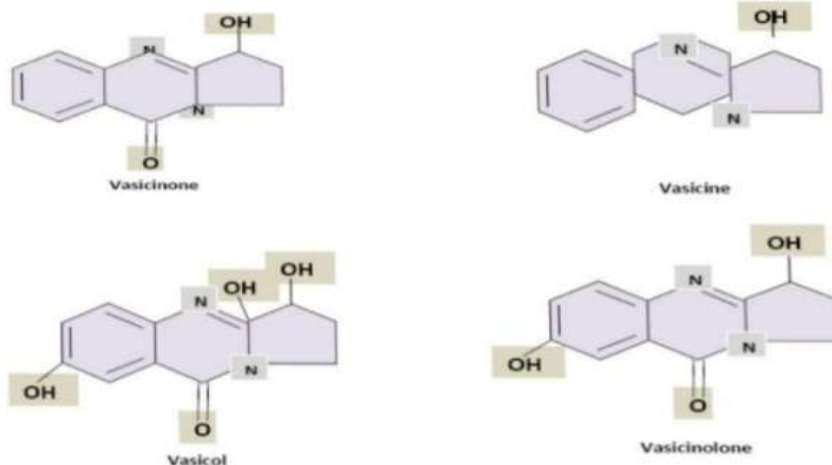


**Fig 2: fresh leaves fig 3: dried leaves**

#### 10. Phytochemistry:

The vast variety of pharmacological uses of Adhatoda is believed to be the result of its rich concentration of alkaloids. The prominent alkaloid found in Adhatoda leaves is the quinazoline alkaloid known as vasicine. In addition to vasicine,

the leaves and roots of Adhatoda contain the alkaloids l-vasicinone, deoxyvasicine, maiontone, vasicinolone and vasicinol. Research indicates that these chemicals are responsible for Adhatoda's bronchodilatory effect.



### 11. ACTIVITY:

Anti-asthmatic and bronchodilator activity Adhatoda has been used in traditional medicine to treat respiratory disorders. Both vasicine and vasicinone the primary alkaloid constituents of Adhatoda are well established as therapeutical respiratory agents. Extracts of Adhatoda's leaves and roots are useful in treating bronchitis, and other lung and bronchiole disorders, as well as common coughs and colds. A decoction of the leaves of Adhatoda has a soothing effect on irritation in the throat, and acts as an expectorant to loosen phlegm in the respiratory passages. To evaluate the antitussive activities of Adhatoda extract in anesthetized guinea pigs and rabbits and in unanesthetized guinea pigs showed the plant to have a good antitussive activity. Recent investigations using vasicine showed bronchodilatory activity both in vitro and in vivo.

#### A). Wound healing activity:

For the purposes of the study, wounds were created along the vertebral columns of buffalo calves, and alcoholic and chloroform extracts of Adhatoda in a powdered form were applied. As compared to control animals, the calves treated with Adhatodavasicinone showed significantly improved healing. Vasicinone improved breaking strength, tensile strength, absorption and extensibility in the wound repair tissue. In addition, the levels of elastin, collagen, hydroxyproline, hexosamine and zinc were greatly increased in the animals treated

with Adhatoda. The alcoholic extract of the herb was found to be the most effective.

#### B). Anti-ulcer activity:

Adhatodavasicinone was studied for its anti-ulcerogenic activity against ulcers induced by ethanol, pylorus, and aspirin. Adhatoda leaf powder showed a considerable degree of antiulcer activity in experimental rats when compared with controls. The highest degree of activity was observed in the ethanol-induced ulceration model. These results suggest that in addition to its classically established pharmacological activities, Adhatodavasicinone has immense potential as an anti-ulcer agent. Further research showed that a syrup of Adhatoda improved symptoms of dyspepsia.

#### C). Tubercular activity:

A chemical constituent of Adhatoda alkaloids, vasicine, produces bromhexine and ambroxol two widely-used mucolytics. Both of these chemicals have a pH-dependent growth inhibitory effect on Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Indirect effects of Adhatoda on tuberculosis include increased lysozyme and rifampicin levels in bronchial secretions, lung tissue and sputum, suggesting that it may play an important adjunctive role in the treatment of tuberculosis.

#### D). Cholagogue activity:

In laboratory experiments on cats and dogs, Adhatodavasicinone was found to increase

bileactivity when the animals were given an intravenous dose of 5 mg/kg. In dogs, the amount of excreted bile increased by 40-100%. The animals also showed an increase in bilirubin excretion

### 12. Chemical composition [8]:

[8]The principle constituents of Vasaka are its several alkaloids, the chief one being vasicine. The leaves contain two major alkaloids called

vasicine and vasicinone 2,3. The pharmacological activities of vasicine and vasicinone are well known. Recent investigations on vasicine showed bronchodilatory activity comparable to theophylline, both in vitro and in vivo. Both the alkaloids in combination showed pronounced bronchodilatory activity. Vasicine also exhibits strong respiratory stimulant activity. There has also been a report of thrombopoietic (platelet increasing) activity with vasicine. Uterine stimulant activity and moderate thrombopoietic activity of the alkaloids have been observed. The leaves of Vasaka are rich in vitamin C, carotene and an essential oil. A study showed that Mycobacterium tuberculosis was inhibited by the essential oil (at a specific concentration)

### 13. Health benefits of Adhatoda:

Adhatoda Vasica has been used in traditional Indian medicine for thousands of years to treat respiratory disorders. Adhatoda Vasica is useful in treating bronchitis, tuberculosis and other lung and bronchiole disorders. A decoction of the leaves can be used as an herbal treatment for cough and other symptoms of colds. The soothing action helps irritation in the throat and the expectorant will help loosen phlegm deposits in the airway which makes adhatoda a good remedy for sore throat. Adhatoda Vasica has been used to control both internal and external bleeding such as peptic ulcers, piles and bleeding gums. A poultice of the leaves may be applied to wounds for their antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. The poultice is also helpful in relieving rheumatic symptoms when applied to joints. This herb exhibits antispasmodic, expectorant and blood purifying qualities. Adhatoda Vasica has also been used to speed delivery during childbirth.

### 14. Side Effects and Possible Interactions:

Adhatoda is considered safe in recommended usage and dosing. The safety of this herb has not been tested in children and should be avoided, unless directed by a medical professional. Use of this supplement is not recommended during pregnancy (except at birth, and then only under the direction of a medical practitioner.) Care

should be exercised when taking this herb with other drugs or supplements that exhibit expectorant or antispasmodic effects.

### 15. Medicinal Applications of Adhatoda [9]:

[9] Healing Power and Curative Properties the leaves, roots and the flowers are extensively used in indigenous medicine as a remedy for cold, cough, bronchitis and asthma.

#### A) Bronchitis and Asthma:

In acute stages of bronchitis it gives unfailing relief, especially where the sputum is thick and sticky. It liquefies the sputum so that it is brought up more easily. For relief in asthma, the dried leaves should be smoked.

#### b) Tuberculosis:

In Ayurveda, a preparation made from vasaka flowers, known as gulkand is used to treat tuberculosis. A few fresh petals of vasaka flowers should be bruised and put in a pot of chilly clay. Some sugar crystals are added and the jar kept in the sun. It should be stirred every morning and evening. The preserve is ready for use in about a month. Even the juice from its leaves is useful in treating tuberculosis. About 30 ml of the juice is taken thrice a day with honey. It relieves the table cough by its soothing action on the nerve and by liquefying the sputum, which makes expectoration easier. For coughs, 7 leaves of the plant are boiled in water, strained and mixed with 24 grams of honey. This decoction provides relief. Similarly a confection of vasaka flowers eaten in doses of 12 grams twice daily relieves cough. About 60 grams of flowers and 180 grams of jaggery should be mixed for preparing this confection.

#### c) Intestinal Worms:

Its leaves, bark, the root-bark, the fruit and flowers are useful in the removal of intestinal parasites. The decoction of its root and bark in doses of 30 grams twice or thrice a day for 3 days can be given for this purpose. The juice of its fresh leaves can also be used in doses of 2 to 4 teaspoons thrice a day for 3 days.

#### d) Diarrhoea and Dysentery:

The juice from its leaves should be given in doses of 2 to 4 grams in treating diarrhoea dysentery.

### 16. Siddha Home Remedies of Adhatoda Vasaka: [10]

[10] Cough, cold and asthma contain preparations made using Adhatoda. Along with thippili (piper lignum), chukka (dry ginger), pepper, adathoda, thoothuvalai (trilobatum) are the

Common herbs used in treating all conditions related to lungs, airway passage, throat etc. Of this, adathoda holds a vital position in treating asthmatic conditions. Adathodaikudineer and manappagu are the two time tested Siddha remedies used in treating asthma. Kudineer is Tamil word for decoction. Adhatodakudineer is prepared by boiling adathoda leaves in water and then cooling down the water for consumption. Now for the ingredients needed to prepare the kudineer or decoction. Adathodai leaves, chukku or dry ginger, and pepper are taken. They are crushed and put in 1 litre of water and allowed to boil.

Once it boils for 3-5 minutes, remove from the stove and allow it to cool. When it reaches a lukewarm state, drink this. This is done three times a day for 3-4 days. This is found to be helpful in clearing cough, cold and phlegm in chest.

One other preparation for treating cough is to follow the above-mentioned process using adathoda root and kandankathiri root. Piper longum powder is added to this decoction. This is taken three times a day after food. In case of chronic wheeze, the following time-tested preparations can be up. Prepare a decoction using adathoda leaves, terminalia chebula (kadukkai), and grapes. Add honey and palm candy to this decoction and take it three times a day after food.

#### 17. Morphological features:

It is a dense shrub having height of 1.2-2.4 m. Bark is yellowish in colour. Leaves are 10-13 cm long. Leaves are of ovate lanceolate-shaped and light-green in colour. It has characteristic odour. The taste is bitter. The apex of leaf is acuminate, margin slightly crenate to entire. The base of leaf is symmetric and venation is pinnate. The transverse section of leaf shows palisade, epidermis, spongy mesophyll, trichome, phloem, xylem, collenchyma and cytolith. Leaves are oppositely arranged, smooth-edged and borne on short petioles. On drying they have dull brownish-green colour. The trunk of this plant is long, opposite, having ascending branch colour. The flowers are of white in colour. Inflorescence represents large, dense, axillary spikes. Fruits are pubescent and have club-shaped capsules. This plant is perennial, evergreen and highly branched.

#### 18. Chemical constituents/Phytochemicals:

The chemical constituents of vasica are alkaloids, tannins, flavinoids, terpenes, sugar and glucosides. The major chemical constituents of vasaca are its several alkaloids, and the chief one is

vasicine. Leaves composed of major constituents which are vasicine and vasicinone. Also the leaves of vasaca contain vitamin C in large amount. They also have carotene and essential oil in large amount. The roots of this plant contain vasicinone, vasicol, peganine, sitosterol

They have beta-glucoside galactose and deoxyvasicine and 2-hydroxyl-4-glucosyloxy chalcone in roots. The flowers of this plant contain beta-sitosterol-D-glucoside, kaempferol. Its glycosides and quercetin minor alkaloids include adhatinine and vasinol.

#### 19. Adulterants:

Vasaca shows adulteration with the leaf of araluka which is Ailanthus excelsa. Use.

#### 20. Medicinal Uses:

It is used in the treatment of various diseases because of its ability of formation of secondary metabolites such as tannins, alkaloid, saponins, flavanoids, reducing sugar and anthraquinones which have ability to restore health and heal many diseases. The leaves of vasaca are used to treat cough, asthma, fever, tuberculosis, piles, jaundice, bleeding gum. It is also used as an expectorant. It has ability of bronchodilator. Its decoction has ability to treat cold and rheumatism. The extract of leaves, bark and flower is used to treat bronchial, asthmatic and pulmonary affection.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

It is concluded that a vasica root does possess anthelmintic activity. It is, however, suggested that further research on large scale be carried out on large number of animals on higher doses than those used in the current study, identification of active principles, and standardization of dose and toxicity studies for drug development.

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