

JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

VOL. 3, NO. 3, 2004

An interdisciplinary approach to Science and Technology Research for development



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

ISSN 1596 – 9649

Volume 3, Number 3, 2004

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EFFECTS OF AQUEOUS EXTRACT OF STEM OF BARK OF CUSSONIA (ARBOREA)
BARTERI (AUREV AND PELLEGR) ON EXPERIMENTAL TRYPANOSOMA
CONGOLENSE INFECTION IN RATS: PRELIMINARY STUDY.

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ABSTRACT

*The aqueous stem bark extract of *Cussonia barteri* used locally in the management of animal trypanosomiasis was evaluated for anti trypanosomal activity prophylactically using rats. In the therapeutic study, a dose of 200 mg/kg body weight was orally administered with the establishment of infection for 5 successive days. For prophylactic studies, the extract was administered for 5 successive days before inoculation with 1×10^6 ml of trypanosome congolense. The acute toxicity of the extract gave the LD₅₀ value of 2,500mg/kg. b. wt. infection of rats with *T. congolense* was established 6 – 11 days post inoculation in both investigations. The infection was characterized by persistent parasitaemia, anaemia and leucopenia. Both studies did not result in significant increase ($P, 0.05$) was recorded in mean cell volume (M.C.V.%) at day 3 post treatment, and days 6, 11 and 14 post prophylaxis. Although this plant is claimed to have been in use for the management of Trypanosomiasis. There was no significant difference in the level of parasitaemia and survival period between prophylactic and therapeutic trials when compared to untreated controls ($P, 0.05$). Further trials in combination with other trypanosomal agents is recommended to evaluate possible synergistic property.*

Keywords: *Cussonia (arborea) bateri, T. congolense, pprophylaxis and treatment.*

INTRODUCTION

Animal trypanosomiasis is a diseases complex caused by different species of the haemoprotozoan parasite Trypanosomes. The disease is unique to Africa affecting both humans and domestic animals (Brian 2001). It affects cattle and small ruminants in many states of Nigeria where the causative organisms are mainly *I. congolense* and or *T. vivax*. The impact of the disease on livestock production and land use is devastating. This is because vast areas of land/pasture are rendered unsuitable for grazing due to the presence of parasites and their vectors (Swallow 200). This affects the economic and nutritional status of most rural dwellers in endemic zones (Swallow 2000). Successfully treatment of animal trypanosomiasis by the few available drugs is et al, 1996). This problem of resistant to almost all the drugs (Franziska et al, 1996). This problem of resistance is although to be due to inappropriate use drugs that are expensive and not readily available (Ilemobade et al, 1975). There has been oral claims about the use of the plants alone or in combinations by herdsmen to treat their Trypanosoma infected animals. *Cussonia bateri* (Aurev and Pellegr) is a tropical plant reportedly used by Fulani herdsmen and other traditional healers to treat a variety of diseases that include leprosy, constipation and feverish conditions (Burkill 1985 and Keay et al, 1958). Another species of this plant *C. bancoensis* has been shown to possess smooth muscle relaxant property hence its use anti-spasmodic (Haruna, et al, 1996). In addition, the Fulani herdsmen claim to use it in the treatment of Sammore (Trypanosoma infection) by boiling the bark and administering the filterate orally to the infected animals. Soaps and blue dyes have been made from parts of this plant. (Dalziel 1955, Unwin 1966 and Hutchison et al, 1958). The pant is rich in saponins and flavonoids (Haruna et al, 1996). A clear gum exudates produced by this pants is found to contain alkaloids (Burkill, 1985). This work is aimed at investigating the trypanocidal potential of this plant in experimental *T. congolense* infections of rats.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Plant Material Collection and Extraction: The fresh stem bark was collection from Kaltungo (Gombe State, Nigeria) in the month of March and transported to Vom, Plateau State in a clean perforated bag. This was allowed to dry at room temperature. The plant leaves flower's and bark was authenticated by Mal. Garba Mohammad of Dept of Biological Science A.B.U. Zaria. The dried stem bark extract was reduced to a coarse powder. 200g of this powder was boiled in distilled water for 2 hours. The extraction was allowed to continue for 24 hours after which it was filtered using clean muslin cloth; and filter paper. The residue was dried, and re-extracted using same procedure. The filterate was dried using oven set at 45^oc for 4 days.

Effects of Aqueous Extract of Stem of Bark of *Cussonia* (Arborea) *Barteri* (Aurev and Pellegr) on Experimental Trypanosome Congolense Infection in Rats: Preliminary Study.
ISSN 1596 – 9649

for 24 hours after which it was filtered using clean muslin cloth; and filter paper. The residue was dried, and re-extracted using same procedure. The filtrate was dried using oven set at 45°C for 4 days.

ACUTE TOXICITY TEST

The lethal dose LD₅₀ of aq. Extract of *Cussonia barteri* was determined using swiss mice by oral route as described by Lorkes (1983).

PHYTOCHEMICAL ANALYSIS

The aqueous extract of *Cussonia bateri* (stem bark) was analysed for the presence of tannins, phlebotamins, cardiac glycosides, anthraquinone, alkaloids, saponins, reducing sugar and flavanoids using standard procedure (Trease and Evans 1983).

PROPHYLACTIC STUDIES

Twelve albino rats obtained from Vet. and Livestock studies division of Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research (NITR) Vom was used. These were divided into 4 groups of 3 rats each. They were weighed and allowed to acclimatized in the laboratory for 5 days. Animals I group 1, 2, and 3 were dosed with hot aq. Extract of *Cussonia bateri* (stem bark) at 200mg/kg. Body weight for 5 successive days while group 4 served as untreated infected control. Blood samples from the rats were collected for packed cell volume (PCV%) Red blood cells (RBC) counts ($\times 10^6/\text{ml}$) and white blood cell (WBC $\times 10^6/\text{ml}$) determination at pre-treatment, treatment and subsequently twice a week until establishment of infection.

THERAPEUTIC STUDIES

Fifteen albino rats (Charles Wistar) obtained from the parasitology section of N.I.T.R. Vom were divided into 4 groups of 3 rats each and allowed to acclimatized for 7 days. The rats were weighted. Rats in group 1 – 4 were each inoculated with 1×10^6 *Trypanosoma congolense* (Karu Strain) intraperitoneally in 0.2ml normal saline. Group 5 served as uninfected but treated control. Parasitaemia was monitored daily by wet film examination. At the onset of infection, treatment with aq. Extract of *Cussonia bateri* (stem bark) commence daily at a dose of 2000mg/kg. b. wt.

RESULT

Phytochemical study: Phytochemical Screening of the aq. Extract of *Cussonia bateri* reveals the presence of reducing sugar, alkaloids, saponins (frothing), cardiac glycosides and Tannins as the chief principles.

ACUTE TOXICITY TEST

The LD₅₀ of *Cussonia barteri* (aq. extract) is 2,5000mg/kg. b. wt. and is therefore slightly toxic to mice. However, at this dose mouth scratching and slight nervous sign was observed, this may be due to across synapse (Brander and Pugh 1977).

PROPHYLACTIC AND THERAPEUTIC STUDY

Result from the two studies are shown in graphs 1a, b and c for prophylactic studies and 1a, b and c for therapeutic studies respectively. 2d represents the mean corpuscular volume (MCV%) while table 1 is the Survival periods of the animals.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of evaluating the active of the plants aq. Extract, anaemia, which is there cardiac sign of Trypanosomiasis is focused. PCV (%) RBC ($\times 10^6/\text{ml}$), and WBC ($\times 10^6/\text{ml}$) and MCV (%) were evaluated in both prophylactic and therapeutic studies before and after oral administration of aq. Extract at 2000mg/kg. b. wt. figure 1a, b and c indicates prophylactic studies. The PCV% (1a) in treated as compared with untreated uninfected and untreated uninfected control do not appreciate indicating continuous red blood cell destruction by the infecting *T. congolense* infected. The is same in fig. 1b. where the RBC drops in volume in circulation. However in fig. 1c the WBC appreciate at day 3 – 11. This is evidenced by rise in WBC in circulating blood in both treated and infected untreated rats, this is in response to initial infection, it usually indicate possible synergistic prosperity of the aq. Extract. This appreciation of circulating W.B.C. is shortlived, though the animal eventually lasted for 16 days post treatment (Table 1) its of no statistically significance $P > 0.05$.

Fig. 2a, band c represents therapeutic studies result. There was observed a drop in R.B.C. $\times 10^6/\text{ml}$ from day 0 -3 possibly due hydrocyanic acid⁽¹¹⁾ from hydrolysis of glycosides (Brander and Pugh, 1977) post treatment and after and after establishment of infection. The rise appreciate significantly ($P < 0.05$) at day 3, 11 and 14 respectively corresponding to a to period of high WBC actively fig. 2c,a and equally a drop in parasitaemia, with, perhaps increase tonic activity of the heart muscles due to cardiac glycosides action. (Brander & Pugh 1977)⁽¹¹⁾. The PCV(%) fig. 2b. shows little, (day 11 – 14 or no appreciation while WBC $\times 10^6/\text{ml}$ equally appreciate at day 3, 11 and 14 respectively. This appreciation is dramatically reduced at day 14 Fig. 2c indicating increaser T. congolense activity and reduced WBC and possibly extract activity. The average survival period of this study is 25 days (20 – 35 days range) prepatent period (ppp) is generally between 5 – 12 days in both studies (table 1). The significant increase in MCV (%) seen at day 6, 11 and 14 post treatment could be associated with increase in immature red blood cells in circulation due to compensatory bone marrow regeneration as a result of progressive anemia which is a recognized feature in Trypanosomiasis.

CONCLUSION

The possible synergistic and potentiating property of this extract is worth evaluating. The ability of the extract to stimulate production of antibodies is another area that needs further study.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We appreciate the effort of lab. Technician in VLS division and chemotherapy and Biochemistry division both, of N.I.T.R., Vom for assisting in this work. We equally appreciate the effort of D.G.N.I.T.R., Dr. I Halid for permitting this work to be published.

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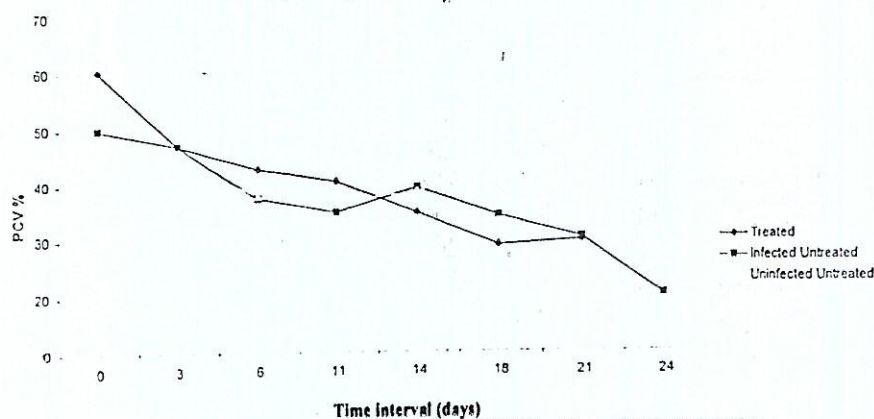


Fig. 1a: Prophylactic Property of Cussonia barkeri on mean PVC % of T. congolense infected mice.

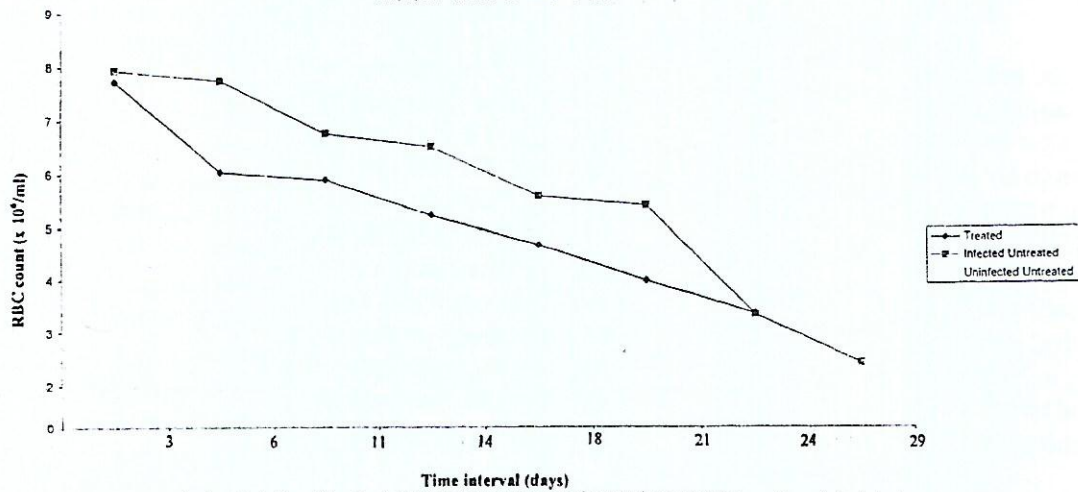


Fig. 1b: prophylactic effect of aq. Stem bark extract of *cussonia barteri* on RBC count of *T. congolense*-infected mice.

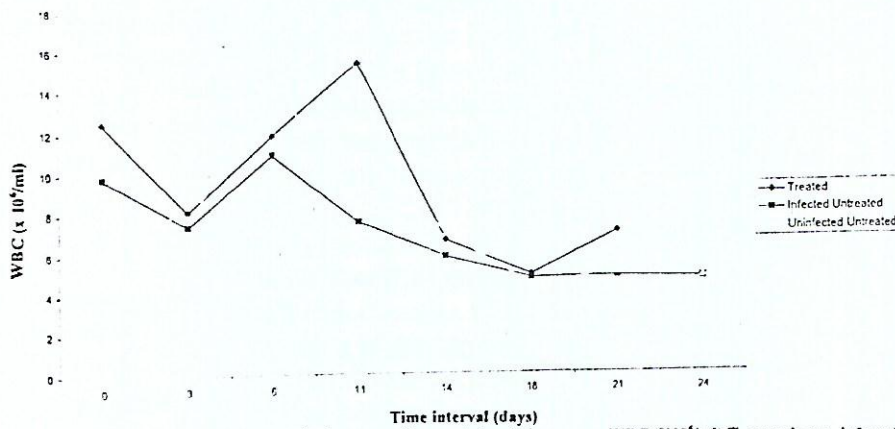


Fig. 1c: prophylactic property of aq. Stem bark extract of *cussonia barteri* on mean WBC (X10⁶/ml) *T. congolense* - infected mice.

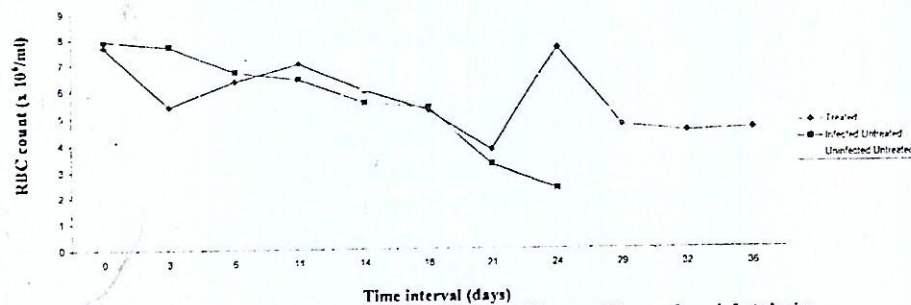


Fig. 2a: Effect of aq. Stem bark extract of *cussonia barteri* on RBC count of *T. congolense*-infected mice.

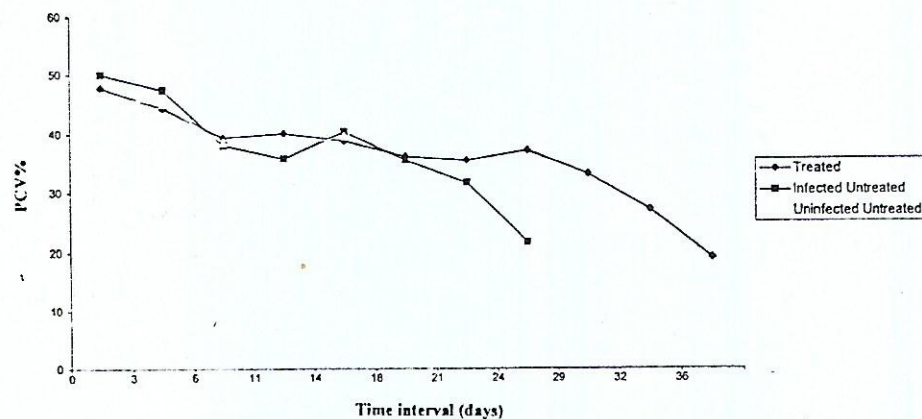


Fig. 2b: Effect of aq. Stem bark extract of *cussonia barteri* on PCV (%) of *T. mice* - infected with *T. congolense*

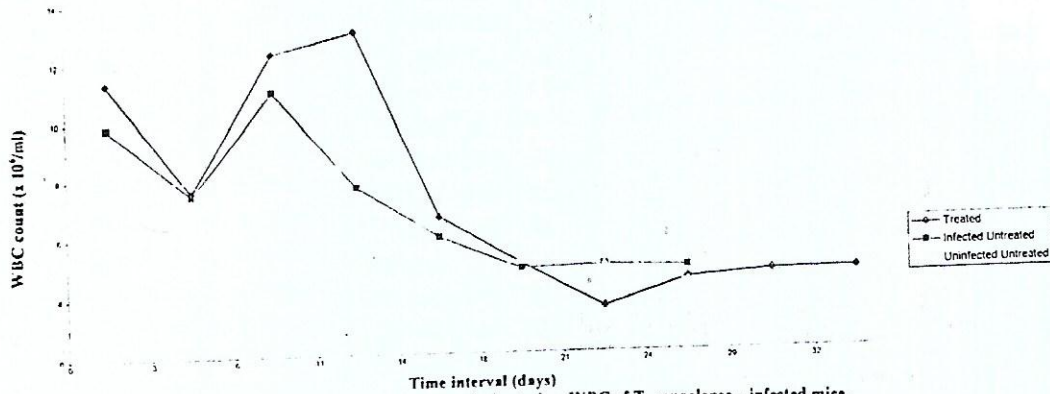


Fig. 2c: Effect of aq. Stem bark extract of *Cuscuta barkeri* on WBC of *T. congolense* - infected mice.

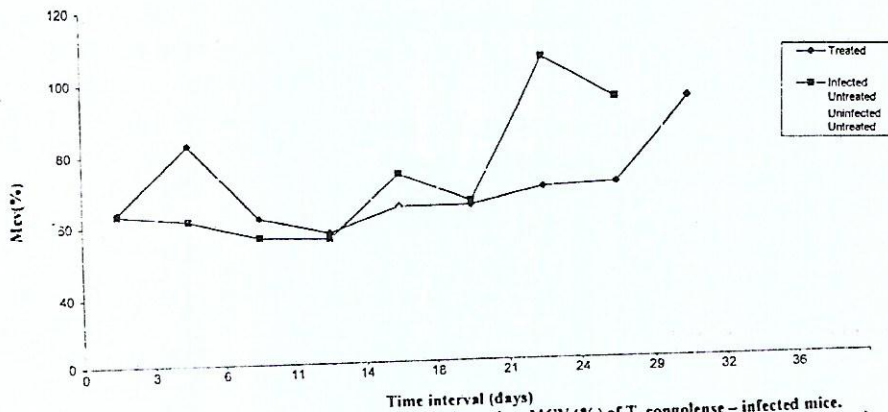


Fig. 2d: Effect of aq. Stem bark extract of *Cuscuta barkeri* on MSP (%) of *T. congolense* - infected mice.

Table 1: A table showing survival period of Animals subjected to various Treatments.

Treatment	Dose	Cage No	Animals /No cage A signets	Prepatent period (pp) (days)	Average ppp (days)	Survival period (onset of inf. of Ro death)	Ave. survival period	Total No of days
Prophylaxis	150mg/kg	1	1	6	8	13	19	10
			7	9	13	22		
			17	9	4	13		
	2000mg/kg	2	2	6	5	10	16	8
			5	4	11	15		
			6	5	3	8		
	2500mg/kg	3	13	7	6	5	12	6
			16	6	9	15		
			18	6	3	9		
Curative	1500mg/kg	4	3	12	9	15	27	18
			14	8	19	27		
			15	6	20	26		
	2000mg/kg	5	4	11	9	9	20	16
			10	7	13	20		
			12	8	27	35		
	2500mg/kg	6	C1	7	7	12	19	15
			C2	8	21	29		
			C9	8 (6-12)	11 (9-27)	19(19-35)		
Control	7 infected untreated	19	14	12	9	9	23	8
			10	13	13	23		
			13	4(2-13)	4 (2-13)	17(17-23)		
		8	Uninfected	Untreated.				